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## ABINGDON ABBEY

### Benedictine abbey of St Mary

County of Berkshire : Diocese of Salisbury  
 Refounded as a Benedictine abbey, c. 954

The extraordinary series of surviving writs and writ-charters issued by King Henry for Abingdon abbey results from a combination of particular circumstances. Abbot Faritius, an Italian monk who held the abbey from November 1100 until his death on 23 February 1117, was closely associated with the king and members of his court.<sup>1</sup> He had been Henry's physician, and he had administered medical help to grateful members of the king's trusted circle. In 1101 Faritius and Grimaldus the physician attended the queen during her first confinement. A personal association between the two physicians is reflected in the fact that, out of eighteen authentic acts witnessed by Grimaldus, eleven were for Abingdon during Faritius's abbacy. In the early years of the reign Faritius very likely attended the king's court, though he does not himself appear in witness-lists. Heads of monastic houses very rarely witnessed writ-charters, so no significance may be attached to this negative. Faritius was better placed

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<sup>1</sup> K. L. Shirley, 'Faricius of Abingdon and the king's court', *Haskins Society Journal* 9 (1997), 175–84. His book *The Secular Jurisdiction of Monasteries in Anglo-Norman and Angevin England* (Woodbridge, 2004), draws many examples from Faritius's administration at Abingdon.

to request documents than many heads of religious houses, and he appears to have had favoured access to both king and queen. He used it, showing remarkable persistence in obtaining both charters and writs, even in matters that did not require royal involvement. Abingdon abbey had a history of litigation in William I's reign and knew the value of a well-documented case. At the beginning of his abbacy he needed to recover property alienated during the vacancy—not an unusual situation—but it may have set him on a pattern of obtaining royal documents, which his successors did not follow. The history of litigation may help to explain another fundamental reason for the rich surviving archive. The abbey produced a historian in the 1160s whose concerns were centred on the abbey's landed properties; he was interested also in disputes about them, and he inserted documents into his narrative, including many from Henry's reign that were writs of only short-lived use. Abbot Faritius's own extensive acquisitions of land were made possible because of those connexions with the king's circle, and several of the largest reflect gratitude for his medical services to leading men at court. He found an ideal historian in the narrator of the 1160s, who devoted half his account of the post-conquest period to the sixteen years of Faritius's abbacy and almost half of that to transcriptions of royal and other documents. The writer's nearly comprehensive inclusion of royal acts adds force to comparisons with what he copied from other reigns, and, during Henry's time, for other abbots: it shows that the frequency of resort to the great seal by Abbot Faritius, especially before 1110, was by any standard exceptional.

The resulting archive is the largest to survive for Henry I's reign from any beneficiary. Its nearest rival is that of Ramsey abbey, with some seventy document, more than half of them writs. The main source for the archive is the twelfth-century documentary history, surviving in two copies, both of them in the Cotton Library and therefore well known to seventeenth-century antiquaries. Joseph Stevenson's edition of the Abingdon history was one of the first texts to be published in the Rolls Series, with the consequence that the Abingdon archive made an early contribution to our understanding of Anglo-Norman government. Some two thirds of the ninety or so acts of Henry I contained here were sufficiently datable for Farrer to include them in his itinerary of Henry I, a considerably higher proportion than with the Ramsey archive. This may be more a matter of chance than any reflection of Abbot Faritius's connexions. Documents in his favour were witnessed by men whose careers are datable more often than is seen in other well preserved

archives. In particular, the documents collected in such numbers by Faritius were for the most part obtained in his first years in office, a fact established by the fact that some of their recurrent witnesses came to the end of their careers at court early in Henry I's reign: Roger Bigod (13 acts) died in 1107, Urse d'Abetot (5) in 1108, while Robert fiz Haimo (4) was incapacitated in the spring of 1105 and Robert Malet (3) disappears from the record in 1106. It is no more than an accident of circumstance that this leads to the relatively close dating of so many acts in this archive. The narrative settings provided by the Abingdon history further assisted Farrer in dating documents.

As a consequence, therefore, of the bulk of surviving material, its early accessibility, and its relative amenability to dating and connected interpretation, the archive of Abingdon abbey has played a major role in our developing knowledge of the royal documents of Henry I's reign. In the field of diplomatic, it was on the basis of the Abingdon archive that W. H. Stevenson first articulated the importance of the address to the shire court ('An inedited charter of King Henry I', *EHR* 21 (1906), 506), and a high proportion of documented Anglo-Norman lawsuits derives from this archive.

It is, of course, not irrelevant that Abingdon was one of the ten richest abbeys in England in 1086. John Hudson, whose new edition of the Abingdon history has been an enormous help in presenting the acts of Henry I contained in it, calculates that the landed income of the abbey at the time of the Domesday survey was between £510 and £540 per year (Hudson, vol. ii, pp. lxxiv–lxxv). This would have grown substantially as a consequence of Faritius's additions to the estate. By the time Abbot Faritius died, the prior was able to satisfy the community's needs and at the same time render £300 p.a. to the king; the Abingdon historian remarks that they 'had every abundance of provisions and clothing' during the four-year vacancy (Stevenson, ii. 158–9; Hudson, ii. 224, § 229). The total income of the abbey also included an unknown amount from its market in Abingdon, its judicial privileges and other customs, not to mention offerings from the faithful.

At the beginning of Henry's reign, there were problems. The abbey had been vacant for some time, like many others during the latter part of William II's reign. Abbot Rainald had fallen out of favour with the king at some point and died in 1097 (Stevenson, ii. 42; Hudson, ii. 60, § 51). For more than three years the custodian had been Modbert, a monk of the abbey, who alienated monastic property to benefit members of the king's court (000, 000). Henry filled the abbacy some four months

after his coronation, choosing his physician Faritius, who was a monk and the cellarer of Malmesbury. He was appointed on 1 November 1100, though the writ of appointment has not been preserved (1). On 11 November three writs for Abingdon abbey were dated on the king's wedding day (2–4). With the support of both king and queen, Faritius set about reasserting the abbey's rights, recovering lost estates, and adding to its property. Already before Easter 1101 he had obtained two writs to assist in this process (5–6).

King Henry had known Abingdon since he was a boy. In 1084 King William ordered his youngest son to stay there for Easter, while father and brothers were in Normandy (Stevenson, ii. 14; Hudson, ii. 16–18, § 15). The young Henry's entourage was headed by Bishop Osmund of Salisbury and Miles Crispin, constable of Wallingford castle, and we may presume that they were lodged in the king's houses just south of the abbey on Andersey Island, a favourite lodging of William I. At some point in the 1090s Henry had as a mistress Ansfrid, widow of Anskill, who was a baron of the abbot's honour (ib. §§ 45, 178); she would visit Henry, but where is not made clear. On her death, the monks gave her burial in the cloister of the abbey. In the second year after his accession, Henry gave the king's houses on the island, now said to be neglected and dilapidated, to the monks; the gift rewarded Abbot Faritius for his attendance on the queen during her first confinement (000, 000, 000). Henry must have passed through Abingdon frequently, on the route between Winchester and Woodstock, and on likely routes between Windsor and Woodstock or even Westminster and Woodstock. Only one act of King Henry, however, is place-dated at Abingdon (000, *Regesta* 1258), though we hear also of Queen Matilda's passing through at a time when the king was in Normandy (000, *Regesta* 674).

There is no sign that either King Henry or Queen Matilda were especially devoted to the interests of Abingdon abbey. Their special connexion was with Abbot Faritius himself. His enthusiasm for seeking the king's seal and the survival of an early compilation of documents have given us a truly extraordinary series of writs and writ-charters of Henry I.

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The principal source for the ninety-four acts or references to acts printed here is the documentary history of Abingdon abbey. The first part, 'Liber primus', is made up for the most part of Anglo-Saxon diplomas with

limited narrative down to the deposition of Abbot Ealdred (1071). The second book, on the post-Conquest period, is again rich in documents but with much more narrative continuity from the appointment of Abbot Adelelm (1071) to the time of Abbot Walkelin (1159–64). This work is preserved in two manuscripts. The older of the two, now BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix fols. 105r–177r [cited as B], was made in the 1160s (Kelly, *Abingdon*, vol. i, pp. liv–lv); it has early modern foliation, fols. 1–73, from before it was bound with a copy of William of Malmesbury’s *Gesta regum Anglorum*, and another modern foliation, fols. 102–175 (accidentally going from 118 to 120); I have used the newer foliation, which is recorded in the margins of Hudson’s edition. The later copy, now BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi [cited as C], was made in the middle of the thirteenth century. This represents a much reworked version of Book I, but the alterations in Book II are more limited. They amount to ten passages (segregated by Hudson, ii. 322–52, but retained in their places by Stevenson). Two of the additions are runs of royal documents, five acts of Stephen and nine acts of Henry II, and one may fairly ask why they were not included in the primary text.<sup>2</sup> Alterations affecting the reign of Henry I are slight.<sup>3</sup> The recent editions of Anglo-Saxon charters by Susan Kelly and of the chronicle as a whole by John Hudson include descriptions and discussion of these two manuscripts (Kelly, *Abingdon*, vol. i, pp. liii–lviii [B], lviii–lxiii [C]; Hudson, vol. i, pp. clxxvii–clxxxv [B], clxxxv–cxc [C], and vol. ii, pp. xxx–xl).<sup>4</sup> It may be observed that

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<sup>2</sup> Between the two manuscripts, we have eleven acts of Stephen, Ste/4, Ste/5, Ste/10, Ste/13 (BC); Ste/6, Ste/7, Ste/8, Ste/11, and Ste/12 (added in C); Ste/2, Ste/3 (B only, left out by C). All were surely available when the historian was at work. With Henry II, four of the nine additions are datable to 1165 or later (H2/24, H2/25, H2/27, H2/28), and these were probably not available to the primary chronicler; another four date from no later than 1158 and surely were available (H2/5, H2/6, H2/7, and H2/8). H2/9 is datable 1155 × 1172 and may or may not have existed when the history was drawn up.

<sup>3</sup> The main addition in the treatment of Henry I’s reign is a chapter that joins two stories, one about the ration of bread provided to the men working on the conventual buildings, the other about the monks’ cheese rations, resolved in 1114 × c. 1116 by the king’s sending Archbishop Ralph of Canterbury, Bishop Roger of Salisbury, and Hugh of Buckland, sheriff, to arbitrate (§ 214a; Stevenson, ii. 146; Hudson, ii.332). It is hard to attach much credibility to this passage.

<sup>4</sup> It is an inconvenience that editorial conventions in this edition, which reserve the letter A for originals, require that the letter B is assigned to the older copy and C to the younger copy. Hudson has assigned the letters C and B in reverse, reflecting the letters of their shelfmarks in accordance with the mnemonic convention often used by editors. In Kelly’s edition, her conventions reserve both A and B for texts on single sheets, contemporary and not contemporary, so the two manuscripts are cited as C and D. In

antiquarian transcripts and abstracts, such as those in BL MS Harley 66 and MS Harley 2188, were made from the later copy rather than the earlier one.

In Book II textual comparison between B and C gives no reason to think that the compiler of C had any recourse to original documents already used by the earlier writer. The question arises whether the later copy was made directly from the earlier one or whether there was an intervening copy; Hudson, vol. ii, p. xxxvii, is equivocal.<sup>5</sup> He cites evidence that the older manuscript was at least used alongside the later one; for example, in § 144, three witnesses' names from a deed of Henry d'Aubigny are entered in the margin in both copies (Hudson, ii. 146 note b). What seems certain, however, is that C is dependent on B. So, for example, where the primary copyist in B left a space for the coloured initial as he copied *Wald' cancell'*, the rubricator mistakenly added a letter 'R'; the copyist of C then turned B's *Rald' cancell'* into *Rainald' cancell'* (000, *Regesta* 613); similarly a mistaken 'D' in 'Croco' has been followed by C (000, *Regesta* 615). And where B omits a whole phrase, so does C (000, *Regesta* 676). Where C diverges from B, it has no authority in the documents edited here. Only B bears witness to the documents used by the historian.

In matters of small importance, the transcripts were made by someone who was relatively unconcerned about exact fidelity to the original documents. Early orthography is sometimes preserved and sometimes not, the abbreviations conventionally used by the king's draftsmen were usually expanded, and (as elsewhere) not always correctly. One oddity of the archive is the French spelling of the name Westminster. Original acts dated at Westminster usually have 'Apud Westm(onasterium)', though examples can be found of 'Apud Westmon(asterium)' and even 'Apud Westmonasterium' in full. The form apparently favoured by the Abingdon chronicler was 'Westmoster', used four times in these acts; it is found elsewhere three times, once in the body of a document for Eudo Dapifer (*Regesta* 552), and twice in place-dates (*Regesta* 776 for Rochester, *Regesta* 933 for Eye). More

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the charters of Henry II the convention is the same as that used here, which means that B represents Claudius C. IX for acts in both manuscripts and Claudius B. VI for those added in the later manuscript.

<sup>5</sup> The question scarcely arises for Book I. Where both contain copies of a document and there is a surviving original to provide a control, they sometimes agree on a deviation from the original (more noticeable in Kelly 54 than in Kelly 44, 65, 66, 87), but the variations are not significant. In Kelly 124 both have worked from the original.

often than not, however, the chronicler did not expand the abbreviation; where Hudson's edition has adopted 'Westmoster' as the writer's preference and expanded accordingly, in this as in other matters of minutiae the present edition seeks to retain what was most likely to have been in the original documents.

It appears also that the chronicler, in the process of copying, allowed himself to make minor interpolations that are out of character with the drafting of the king's scribes. A clear example, that depends on no recognition of royal diplomatic convention, is in 000, *Regesta* 702, where the words 'in tempore Faritii abbatis' must have been added retrospectively. It is odd, however, that they are included in the copy of the charter in the Earls Colne cartulary. It is suggested in the notes there they may have been written on the charter, perhaps by the chronicler. Another document, 000, *Regesta* 1477, has an entirely extraneous addition to normal drafting, explaining the sense of 'hold in peace and quietly and honourably', 'scilicet quod nullus uicecomes uel eorum ministri inde se quicquam intromittant, sed ipsi libere iusticiam suam habeant et faciant'. This act presents several other features whose removal as interpolations allows one to restore a conventional text. It was the interpolated text that served as precedent for a confirmation by Henry II, at a time when other documents were also confirmed; a falsified original must have been made, and this was also copied both Lyell and Chatsworth cartularies.

One particular drafting feature is the recurrent use of 'perpetuo habendam' or the like. It occurs in the interpolated text of 000, *Regesta* 1477, 'iure perpetuo tenendum et habendum' (*Regesta* 1477). And it is frequent elsewhere: 'perpetuo tenendam' (000, not in *Regesta*, Lambrick & Slade C210, L111), 'perpetuo habendam' (*Regesta* 550, 699, 701), 'perpetuo in custodia eorum habendam' (*Regesta* 703), 'perpetuo firmiter habendam' (*Regesta* 893); 'perpetuo possidendum' (*Regesta* 676, 958), 'in perpetuum habendum' (*Regesta* 970), 'perpetuo habenda' (*Regesta* 980). Elsewhere in the Abingdon history, one should note 'perpetuo habendam' (§ 78, deed of Richard, earl of Chester), 'perpetuo habendam' (§ 148, deed of Robert, count of Meulan). What is striking about all this is that such formulae, though common in deeds of the twelfth century, are exceedingly rare in the conventionally drafted writ-charters issued under Henry I's seal; there are only four known examples outside Abingdon, 'perpetuo iure possidendas' (*Regesta* 538 for Lincoln cathedral), 'perpetuo habendas' (*Regesta* 918 for Durham cathedral), 'iure perpetuo possidendam' (*Regesta* 1070 for Winchester cathedral),

and ‘perpetuo possidendam’ (*Regesta* 1187 for Tiron abbey). Collectively these examples from Abingdon present a consistent deviation from normal drafting found recurrently over an extended period, and the simplest explanation for this would be to suppose that the person copying documents into the Abingdon history was moved to add phrases that would not be out of line with normal legal drafting in a private context. That this was indeed the case appears in one instance, 000, *Regesta* 699, where the words ‘et monachis eiusdem loci perpetuo habendam’ are absent from the two cartulary copies though present in the two chronicle copies. On the other hand, in 000, *Regesta* 550, the phrase ‘monachis perpetuo habendam in suo dominio’ is corroborated by the Lyell cartulary, and the same is the case with ‘perpetuo firmiter habendam’ (000, *Regesta* 893), ‘in perpetuum habendum’ (000, *Regesta* 970), ‘perpetuo possidentum concessisse’ (000, *Regesta* 958), ‘perpetuo habenda’ (000, *Regesta* 980). In this context, it is appropriate also to draw attention to the phrase ‘perpetue remansuras’ (000, *Regesta* 956), unparalleled in the king’s acts, very like the usage in the narrative, ‘quatuor sui iuris hidas in Chedelswrtha perpetue mansuras loco eidem concessit’ (Stevenson, ii. 170; Hudson, ii. 248, § 248), and yet confirmed by the reading of the Lyell cartulary. There is no clear evidence of tampering here, unless one opens the possibility that the cartulary is in part drawn from the Abingdon history.

Once the possibility of tampering is admitted, it is hard to draw firm lines around examples. Reference to the abbot ‘et omnibus successoribus suis’ as beneficiary is relatively frequent among these charters (000, *Regesta* 613; 000, not in *Regesta*; 000, 000, 000, *Regesta* 1089, 1110). This is sufficiently unusual to be worth remarking on, but it is found in authentic acts for other beneficiaries (among them the abbeys of Chertsey, 000, *Regesta* 1818, and St Benet Hulme, 000, *Regesta* 1094) and is confirmed by several original charters (000, *Regesta* 918 for Durham, 000, 000, *Regesta* 919 and 1656 for Ely, and 000, *Regesta* 1746 for Lincoln). Here one cannot be sure that the compiler has introduced the phrase, but where he certainly did interpolate, he specified successor abbots, ‘et omnibus [abbatibus] successoribus suis’ (000, *Regesta* 1477).

Problems of this kind apart, the acts of Henry I preserved by the chronicle are almost completely free from outright forgery. Indeed, as Hudson has noted, ‘Almost all the post-Conquest documents are readily acceptable as authentic’ (vol. ii, p. xviii). The confirmation of gifts to Faritius must be beneficiary-drafted but need not count as a forgery if it was sealed by the king (000, *Regesta* 1092). The only act to which

serious suspicion attaches is presented below under Colne priory (§§ 64–6, 000, *Regesta* 981).

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Two cartularies provide a second important source of texts, smaller in quantity than the chronicle, reflecting no doubt a later sense of what was worth copying, but made from the original documents and preserving in the minutiae of spelling and abbreviation a text more faithful to them than that in the chronicle. The Lyell cartulary, now Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv) [cited as D], contains thirty-nine texts, which would still make for a major archive even without the chronicle text. Its readings help to improve the text in trifling ways; it has, for example, retained conventional abbreviations in names where the chronicle has expanded them, and in 000, *Regesta* 676, it has preserved a phrase omitted by the chronicle, though it may also use initials where the original does not. Unfortunately, it usually omits witnesses. This cartulary has preserved two texts not in the chronicle (L97, L111, 000, 000 below). The second cartulary is now Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv) [cited as E]. This contains only fifteen acts of Henry I, twelve of them shared with the Lyell cartulary, and all except one found in the chronicle. The extra one (C319, 000 below) is a previously unrecorded act in the name of William the king's son. The level of variation in reading is small. In comparison with the number of early acts copied by the chronicler in the 1160s, these volumes show the degree to which selection, whether in weeding the documents held in the archive or in making the cartularies, can reduce a once rich archive. Conversely their small addition reflects the nearly comprehensive record for our period provided by the chronicle.

The abbey very likely had an extensive archive of documents and registers until the Dissolution, but nothing from our period has survived. Seven original diplomas from the pre-Conquest period together with two single-sheet copies (S 587, ?11th cent; S 886, late 13th cent.) are now in the Cotton collection, and at least a dozen more were in the hands of George Owen (d. 1558), Henry VIII's physician, who had acquired much former monastic property in Oxfordshire (Kelly, *Abingdon*, vol. i, pp. xlvi–xlvii).

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The abbey's earliest surviving papal privileges are from the time of Pope Eugenius III, who provided two, in 1146 (JL 8972) and 1152 (JL 9567). The first survives as an original (J. E. Sayers, *Original Papal documents in the Lambeth Palace Library* (London, 1967), 9); both were included in the chronicle (Stevenson, ii. 191–99; Hudson, ii. 264–78, §§ 266–7), the second also in the Lyell cartulary (Lambrick & Slade, i. 19–20, L24). This later privilege refers to 'the footsteps of our predecessor of happy memory Pope Innocent'; neither history nor cartulary has preserved a privilege of Innocent II, but the historian refers to an addition in the first privilege of Eugenius III in terms of renewal, 'in priuilegio Romano . . . quod tunc temporis renouabatur' (Stevenson, ii. 175; Hudson, ii. 256, § 256), so that it appears likely that a privilege had been obtained still earlier, most likely in King Henry's time.

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Abingdon remained wealthy during the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries; only five English abbeys had a larger income in 1535. It is noteworthy, therefore, that none of these documents were inspected and enrolled, nor were any of the twenty-six acts of King Henry II for Abingdon inspected and enrolled. After the general confirmation of 1 Richard I (*Cartae Antiquae Rolls* 11–20, 101–2, no. 470), I have found none by John or Henry III. Only the private hundred of Hormer was the subject of a series of confirmations, beginning in 1336, when Edward III inspected and confirmed (*CalCh*, iv. 373–4; L141, L523, C361) charters of King Coenwulf of Mercia (S 184, Kelly 10, a forgery, perhaps of the later twelfth century), Richard I, Henry III, and Edward II.

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It is the very large number of acts of Henry I that gives Abingdon a place among the largest of Anglo-Norman archives (94 acts, of which five were not in *Regesta* and three survive only through cartularies). For other reigns the number preserved is not exceptional: William I (4), William II (4), Stephen (12). The absence of any act in the name of the Empress Matilda is worth noting, in view of the abbey's location. The chronicler in the 1160s copied twelve acts of Henry II, including as many as eight dated at Rouen that may have been issued around the time of the appointment of Abbot Walkelin in May 1159 (H2/14–21; Stevenson, ii. 216–21; Hudson, ii. 298–304, §§ 289–96). From the whole of that reign

the number is larger (26 acts, comprising 12 acts from the older copy of the Abingdon history, 10 acts added in the later copy, and 4 further documents from cartularies, H2/4, H2/11, H2/23, H2/27). Westminster (with its abundant forgeries), Lincoln cathedral, and Ramsey abbey have all preserved close to a hundred acts from the period 1066–1154, but none of them has quite so strikingly large a number from Henry I's reign.

A fundamental question, therefore, is how far the rich survival of acts of Henry I in the Abingdon archive bears a reliable witness to what might be expected in the archives of less retentive abbeys of comparable position. There is internal evidence to suggest that Abingdon is not typical and cannot be used as a guide to what other archives have lost. Outside the abbacy of Faritius, there are two, perhaps three, acts from a vacancy, an unusual phenomenon; eight acts from the time of Abbot Vincent, 1121–30; perhaps as many as twenty-three from the time of Abbot Ingulf, 1130–59; and at least ten from the time of Abbot Walkelin, 1159–64. Such arithmetic is insecure with Henry II's acts; Ingulf is not named in acts that are datable to his time, whereas Walkelin is more often named; and it is frequently impossible to determine which of these abbots was the beneficiary. More than eighty acts for Abbot Faritius, however, is surely evidence that he was peculiarly inclined to seek a writ from the king in circumstances when others, even other abbots of Abingdon, would not have done so. The seeming triviality in some cases points in the same direction (000, 000). He approached the king, more often than not, at places where he may have been waiting on him at court (*italicized in the table below*), even if he had no business of his own to put to him. Otherwise, he seems mostly to have been opportunistic, calling on the king when he was within thirty or forty miles of Abingdon. Only two acts are place-dated in Normandy (000, 000, *Regesta* 789, 676), and one of those may have been handled by the queen's messenger, Roger de Courseulles. A request sent to the king in Normandy on one occasion, seeking to buy the royal manor of Sutton (later Sutton Courtenay), is said to have been put off until Henry returned to England and lapsed because of Faritius's own death (*De abbatibus*, 289). Only five acts are place-dated somewhere remote from Abingdon or the king's principal courts; three were obtained at Northampton, Rockingham, and Brampton, places where the king did hold meetings; the two outliers are dated at Cambridge and Wolverhampton. The table below shows acts obtained by Abbot Faritius arranged by place and frequency:

no. of acts	place	distance from Abingdon	no. of acts	place	distance from Abingdon
17	<i>Westminster</i>	58 miles	1	Besselsleigh	4 miles
8	Cornbury	24 miles	1	Oxford	7 miles
6	<i>Windsor</i>	36 miles	1	Beckley	13 miles
6	<i>Winchester</i>	47 miles	1	Aylesbury	27 miles
5	<i>Woodstock</i>	15 miles	1	Chute	40 miles
5	<i>London</i>	59 miles	1	Northampton	49 miles
3	Wallingford	12 miles	1	Rockingham	72 miles
3	Reading	25 miles	1	Brampton	77 miles
3	Romsey	55 miles	1	Cambridge	83 miles
2	Sutton Courtenay	3 miles	1	Wolverhampton	83 miles
2	Brill	20 miles	1	Pont de l'Arche	Normandy
2	Newbury	21 miles	1	Lyons-la-Forêt	Normandy
2	Marlborough	34 miles			

The place-dates of acts obtained from King Henry by later abbots offer a limited picture for comparison. The last ten documents printed below show only five place-dates, four of them where the abbot may have been at court, Woodstock (4 acts), Windsor (2), London (2), and Winchester (1); the remaining act was dated at Abingdon itself.

Another aspect of the archive is the frequency with which Queen Matilda appears. There are four acts in the queen's name (000, 000, 000, 000), unusual but perhaps not remarkable in relation to the number of acts from the period, and there are nine acts in which she attests (*Regesta* 550, 700, 702, 722, 613, 613 bis, 693, 742, 1092). She witnessed forty-four authentic acts now surviving for twenty-two different churches and five laymen; some were grand occasions, in some cases there was an obvious personal connexion, but there is no other beneficiary for whom she witnessed so often. Only two beneficiaries have more than one or two examples: Lincoln cathedral has four acts attested by the queen, Gloucester abbey has three. It is probably fair to think that Faritius had direct access to the queen, presumably in his professional role, and it is possible that she took a lasting interest in his concerns from the time when she first assisted him in rebuilding the abbey (00, *Regesta* 565). The chronicler tells us that Herbert, the king's chamberlain, even petitioned the abbot through the queen and through the great men of the realm (Hudson, ii. 193, § 193).

After Faritius's time, the evidence suggests that his successors had far less appetite for bothering the king, even for confirmations. Such an inference from the relative paucity of acts in their favour depends on our sense that the Abingdon history would not have omitted acts if they existed. It is a case founded on simple numbers. Detail is difficult.

We are very occasionally able to identify circumstances in which many beneficiaries, and surely Faritius, would have sought the king's seal. So in Abbot Vincent's time, we know that Ralf Basset gave four hides in Chaddleworth to the monks of Abingdon, because his deed (datable 1121 × 1129) was copied into the cartularies, L247, C294 (Lambrick & Slade, ii. 246). This is the only deed of gift from Henry's reign preserved by the cartularies but not in the chronicle. The chronicler might have inserted this deed where he writes about Ralf's gift and his burial at Abingdon in the chapter house (Stevenson, ii. 170–71, 188–90, 171–2; Hudson, ii. 246–52, §§ 248–51), but he did not. Nor did he insert a confirmation obtained from Henry I. May we infer that, having used King Henry's acts as the mainstay of his work on Faritius, he found no confirmation in this case because Abbot Vincent had not sought one, and without that, the insertion of the deed alone did not interest him? A royal confirmation was obtained from Henry II (H2/12, not later than 1172; Stevenson, ii. 189; Hudson, ii. 248, § 250; L128, C297).

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How far can one use the narrative added by the chronicler to help contextualize the documents transcribed? In particular, how accurately was he able to date the transactions referred to?

The table following this headnote (000–00) shows the documents in sequence as they appear in the chronicle with the addition of date-range, place-date, and witnesses as a guide to dating; it includes the numbering of three printed collections, Farrer, *Regesta*, and the present edition. From this conspectus it is at once apparent that from § 57 to § 169 the chronicle narrative is constructed entirely around documents, and the greater part of this stretch of the chronicle text will be found printed here, though with a presentation and emphasis very different from that in editions of the chronicle. The account of Abingdon's interests in King Henry's reign, however, continues long after § 170. King Stephen first appears in §§ 242–4, the succession of Henry II in §§ 248–50. The arrangement suggests that strict chronology played little part in the chronicler's scheme and that he structured his account in the first place around the series of royal acts. After the stretch that was heavily dependent on royal acts, dating references are not infrequent, 10 Henry I (§ 170), 1105 and 1108 (§ 171), 11 Henry I (§ 172), 14 Henry I (§ 176), 1105 (§ 181), and then from § 182 to § 234 the indicators are always in chronological order from before the death of Abbot Serlo of Gloucester

(mentioned in § 185, but to be read backwards to § 182 by references to ‘same day’ or ‘same year), to 10 Henry I (§ 213), the death of Abbot Faritius in 1117 (§ 229), and the succeeding years of vacancy (§§ 230–34). Such dates do not continue into Abbot Vincent’s time. Wherever they are testable, these indicators are not contradicted by other evidence, so that it is inevitable that in the earlier sequence, where dates are offered alongside documents, the narrative context should influence our efforts to tighten the possible dates of the acts here edited.

The question must be posed, What sources had the narrator besides the documents themselves? There is almost nothing that amounts to evidence of written sources. Hudson posited the existence of some ‘written accounts of grants, disputes, or other incidents’ (vol. ii, p. xix). At most one can say is that he had some annalistic information, for the most arranged by regnal years, and it would not be implausible to supposed that, during Faritius’s time at any rate, some kind of year-by-year domestic record was maintained and was available still to the compiler of the chronicle.

It is sometimes possible to form an impression of how capable the chronicler was at joining up the documents and other information available to him. Concerning the acquisition of a hide of land at Wormsley, for example, he has used several documents and provided a plausible narrative (§§ 75–81, 000, 000, *Regesta* 693, 758). These documents may have been archived under Wormsley. He also cross-refers to a later confirmation, 000, *Regesta* 1092. He entirely ignores 000 (hence not in *Regesta*), an intervening confirmation, which may have been archived under Shippon. In some cases there is a material discrepancy between narrative and documents, for example in the case of the gift of land in Kensington for the soul of Geoffrey de Vere (§§ 62–3, 000, *Regesta* 702); here again comparison is made with 000, *Regesta* 1092, but in this case an implausible inference is drawn. With 000, *Regesta* 521, the writer made no direct connexion between the writ and the dealings to which it relates; four cases are specified in the act, three of them feature in his narrative (§§ 53, 187–8, 193–4), which in this case is clearly not merely extrapolation from the document, but the writ itself (§ 114) is left in a series of acts with no narrative setting.

In the section of narrative that is most dependent on royal acts, it is clear that the chronicler did not always feel able to add to what the documents themselves revealed. From § 57 to § 86 and again from § 140 to § 169, documents are introduced as part of a narrative. In between, §§ 87–136 form a continuous sequence of fifty acts of Henry I, the great

majority of them writs (§§ 89, 91–104, 106–114, 117–18, 120–31, 134–6), and of the remaining seven that are writ-charters in their form of address some are very close indeed to writs in tenor, as a comparison of §§ 105–6 will reveal. In these cases it appears that the chronicler had insufficient basis, either in the documentation or in domestic tradition, for him to construct a narrative around the documents he found in the archive. It is no wonder, therefore, that a modern editor is able to add little to explain the context of these documents. In some cases, however, it now appears likely that several documents (§§ 92, 95, 000, 000, *Regesta* 1402, 1258) must be dated outside the abbacy of Faritius, the period in which the chronicler inserted this entire series, while others (§§ 97, 98, 102, 000 000, 000, *Regesta* 1612, 1510, 1799) are more likely to date from after his death than from before it. Since twenty-nine out of the series of fifty acts do not name the abbot, it may be thought the chronicler did well in assigning them to Faritius's time, though since such a high proportion of documents in the archive date from his abbacy it would always be the guess with the best chance of being correct.

One might readily think that the chronicler has included every royal act of Henry I that he could find, whether or not he was able to place it in context. The few documents copied into the cartulary that do not appear in the chronicle show that he was not comprehensive, but nearly so. The confirmation of gifts by the earls of Chester (000, in both cartularies, C210, L111) is a surprising omission, since there is an ideal context for its inclusion in the chronicle in the account of the gift of Wormsley (000–0, *Regesta* 693, 758). The general writ (000, L97) would not have had so much importance, and an act in the name of William the king's son may have been missed by oversight. From the chronicle, however, we have inferred two lost writs which the writer appears to have known about yet did not copy (000, 000). And we have followed Farrer in supposing that the king used a writ to tell the monks to show obedience to Abbot Faritius (000, *Regesta* 498); in that context, it is the more surprising that no writ-charter of appointment survives. The completeness of the chronicler's copying of royal acts from his time may make us reflect on the plausibility of such inferences.

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With so many acts to put in some sequence in this edition, and so many of them only very approximately dated, the arrangement of the edition becomes very difficult. The chronicler's arrangement is very far from

chronological, but the editorial principle here is to present documents, so far as possible, in the order of their issue. In a more ordinary archive with a few acts spread across a reign of thirty-five years, this is usually straightforward, but here, with dozens of acts from the seventeen years of Abbot Faritius, we have on a smaller scale the same problem as confronted the editors of *Regesta*.

Joseph Stevenson, in his edition of the chronicle, was brave enough to provide a list of acts in chronological order (Stevenson, ii. 529–46), where he offers year-dates for eighty-seven royal acts of King Henry and Queen Matilda, eighty of them from the time of Abbot Faritius. His sequence, however, often relies on little or no evidence, some obvious dating-criteria are missed, and there is also some dislocation by error (e.g. two acts dated to the king’s wedding-day in November 1100 are correctly dated but misplaced in sequence under 1110, p. 538). Some sixty acts were included in Farrer’s itinerary, a high proportion, and on much better reasoning than Stevenson’s, but Farrer for the most part dated by a possible date-range. As he found, and as is obvious in *Regesta*, it is very difficult to put a large number of range-dated acts into sequence. It is misleading to treat either the first term or the second term as the basis of sequence, and a broad date-range is inevitably carried away to the extremes. With so many documents, Abingdon is large enough to present these problems within one archive. No sequence can be regarded as secure, but a sequence must be attempted. The table below is intended to provide a conspectus of the sequence used, including *Regesta* numbers for the sake of comparison; the plus sign (+) is used to show where two or more acts are linked in a sequence or grouping.

00 498	possible lost act (1100)				
00 499	Westminster in nuptiis (1100)		1102)		
00 499*	Westminster in nuptiis (1100)	}	00 699	Cornbury (1101 × 1105, ?1102)	
00 —	Westminster in nuptiis (1100)		00 700	Cornbury (1100 × 1106, ?1102)	
00 521	London (1100 × Easter 1101)		00 701	Cornbury (1101 × 1107, ?1102)	
00 520	London (1100 × Easter 1101)		00 702	Cornbury (1100 × 1107, ?1102)	
00 721	Westminster (1100 × Easter 1101)		00 703	Cornbury (1102 × 1106, ?1102)	
00 527	Winchester at Easter (Easter 1101 or 1102)		}	00 553	London (1100 × 1105, ?1103)
00 565	Sutton Courtenay (Queen, 1101 × 1102)			00 651	Brampton (1102 × 1106, ?1103)
00 567	<Windsor?> (Queen, 1101 × 1102)				
00 550	Windsor (1101 × 1102)				
00 528	Cambridge (Apr 1101 × Sept		00 722	Chute (spring 1102 × spring	

- |          |  |          |  |
|----------|--|----------|--|
|          | 1105)  | 00 893   | Winchester (Aug 1107 × Jul 1108)                 |
| 00 613   | Westminster at Christmas (1102, 1103, 1105)                        | 00 726   | Wallingford (1100 × 1111)                        |
| 00 613   | Westminster at Christmas (1102, 1103, 1105)                        | 00 814   | Westminster (Jan 1107 × Sept 1110)               |
| 00 654   | Westminster at Christmas (1102, 1103, 1105)                        | 00 815   | Cornbury (Nov 1100 × Sept 1110)                  |
| { 00 615 | Westminster at Christmas (1102 × 1110, perhaps × 1107)             | 00 961   | Cornbury (Aug 1100 × c. 1115, perhaps × c. 1110) |
| 00 616   | Westminster (1102 × 1110)  | 00 970   | Westminster (Sept 1102 × Sept 1111)              |
| 00 728   | Besselsleigh (Sept 1102 × spring 1105)                             | 00 937   | Marlborough (1107 × 1110, ?1110)                 |
| 00 695   | Brill (Nov 1100 × Sept 1107)                                       | 00 938   | Marlborough (Jan 1107 × Apr 1116)                |
| 00 696   | Brill (Nov 1100 × Sept 1107)                                       | 00 956   | Romsey (1110)                                    |
| 00 697   | Beckley (1102 × 1107)  | 00 958   | Woodstock (spring 1110)                          |
| 00 854   | <Westminster> (Nov 1100 × Sept 1107)                               | 00 959   | Cornbury (Nov 1100 × Apr 1116, probably 1110)    |
| 00 856   | Westminster (Nov 1100 × Sept 1107)                                 | 00 973   | Woodstock (1110 × 1116, ? Lent 1111)             |
| 00 855   | Winchester (Nov 1100 × Sept 1107)                                  | { 00 974 | Woodstock (Jan 1107 × Apr 1116, ?1110 × 1116)    |
| 00 857   | Windsor (Nov 1100 × Sept 1107)                                     | 00 979   | Windsor (Jan 1107 × Apr 1116)                    |
| 00 858   | London (Nov 1100 × Sept 1107)                                      | 00 983   | Newbury (Jan 1107 × Apr 1116)                    |
| 00 724   | Wallingford (1100 × 1108, perhaps × 1104)                          | 00 984   | Newbury (Jan 1107 × Apr 1116)                    |
| 00 725   | Wallingford (Nov 1100 × 1108)                                      | { 00 980 | Windsor (May 1108 × 1115)                        |
| 00 566   | Sutton Courtenay (August 1100 × 1108)                              | 00 972   | Westminster (May 1108 × Apr 1116)                |
| { 00 683 | Romsey (Feb 1105)  | 00 982   | Reading (May 1108 × Apr 1116)                    |
| 00 576   | Wolverhampton (Nov 1100 × Apr 1116, ? 1105 × 1107, ? 1102 or 1114) | 00 1000  | Winchester (Queen, 1108 × 1109 or 1111)          |
| { 00 789 | <i>Pont de l'Arche</i> (Jan 1107 × Feb 1117)                       | 00 1128  | Reading (Nov 1108 × Apr 1116, ? × August 1111)   |
| 00 736   | Northampton (Aug 1100 × Sept 1107, ? Feb 1106)                     | 00 1037  | Oxford (Nov 1100 × Apr 1116)                     |
| { 00 693 | Aylesbury (Nov 1100 × Jul 1106)                                    | 00 1089  | Woodstock (summer 1115)                          |
| 00 758   | Romsey (Oct 1102 × Jul 1106, after 693)                            | 00 1092  | no place (Aug 1114 × Sept 1115)                  |
| { 00 —   | Winchester (May 1106 × Sept 1115)                                  | 00 1110  | no place (Aug 1114 × Apr 1116)                   |
| 00 674   | London (Queen, Aug–Sept 1106)                                      | 00 1111  | Winchester (Jan 1107 × Apr 1116)                 |
| { 00 676 | <i>Lyons-la-Forêt</i> (late 1106)                                  | 00 —     | Westminster (Roger, early 1113)                  |
| 00 742   | Rockingham (Jul–Sept 1107)   | 00 1132  | Windsor (1107 × Apr 1116)                        |
| 00 812   | Westminster (May 1107 × Jul 1108)                                  | 00 1133  | Winchester (Lent 1111 × Apr 1116)                |
| 00 813   | Westminster at Whitsun (Jun 816                                    |          |  |

00 1800	Woodstock (? c. 1110 × Apr 1116)	}	00 1477	London (1126 × 1127)
00 —	lost act (1107 × 1117)		00 1478	London (1123 × 1130)
00 —	lost act (1117–)		00 1510	Woodstock (c. 1110 × 1129, ? c. 1127)
00 —	Windsor (1118 × 1119)		00 1612	Windsor (1100 × 1129, ? c. 1127)
00 1211	possible lost act (1119)		00 1258	Abingdon (1126 × 1133)
00 1259	Woodstock (1121 × 1123)		00 1641	Winchester (1130)
00 1402	Wallingford (1121 × 1123)		00 1799	Woodstock (c. 1110 × 1133)
00 1516	Woodstock (1121 × 1127)			

The main aim in sequencing has been, so far as understanding permits, to ensure that no two related acts are incorrectly placed relative to one another. The sequence of unrelated acts is based, first, on the abbot to whose time each act can be assigned; for the abbacy of Faritius, acts are assigned where possible to one of three groups, (a) before 1107 or 1108, i.e. before the deaths of Roger Bigod and Urse d'Abetot; (b) before c. 1110–11, i.e. before William of Oxford was replaced as sheriff, which cannot as yet be more closely dated than January 1107 × February 1111; and (c) before 1116 or February 1117, i.e. before the deaths of Hugh of Buckland, sheriff of Berkshire, and of Abbot Faritius himself. These groups do not represent phases of the reign, for acts in groups (b) and (c) may be datable only 1100 × 1111 or 1100 × 1117. There is one document that cannot be dated even to the period of a particular abbot; this is placed after the sequence of abbots (000, *Regesta* 1799).

## CONCORDANCE FROM CHRONICLE TO DOCUMENTS SHOWING INDICATORS OF DATE

§	<i>Regesta</i>	Farrer	Place-date	date-range from document	chronicle date	combined date	H1/000
(53)	cited at 521				1097–1100		
(54)					1100		
55	498	8	—	(lost act) —	Nov 1100		
(55)				—	career of Faritius		
(56)							
57	565	40	Sutton	Nov 1100 × Sept 1102	queen's pregnancy implies May 1101 × Feb 1102	May 1101 × Feb 1102	

§	<i>Regesta</i>	Farrer	Place-date	date-range from document	chronicle date	combined date	H1/000
57	567	39	—	Easter 1101 × Sept 1102	"	May 1101 × Sept 1102	
57	550	41	Windsor	Easter 1101 × Sept 1102	"	May 1101 × Sept 1102	
58, 59, 60, 61	699	125	Cornbury	1101 × 1105, perhaps 1102	—		
62, 63	702	128	Cornbury	1100 × 1107, perhaps 1102	—		
64, 65	981 for Colne	287	Reading	(not authentic) Dec 1110 × Aug 1111	—		
(66, 67)	—	—			Death of Aubrey de Ver I, perhaps 1111 × 1112 (Colne Headnote)	perhaps 1111 × 1112	
68, 69, 70	1089	358	Woodstock	1107 × 1116	15 Hen I, 1115	July–Aug 1115	
71, 72	958	273	Woodstock	1110	—		
73, 74	970	247	Westminster	1102 × 1111	—		
75, 76, 77a, 77b 78, 79, 80, (81)	693      758	122      116	Aylesbury      Romsey	Nov 1100 × Jul 1106     Sept 1102 × Jul 1106	Associated deed dated 13 May 1106    Says after associated deed of 13 May 1106	Nov 1100 × Jul 1106    May × Jul 1106, but doubtful	
82, 83,	973	316	Woodstock in Lent	1107 × 1116	Confirmation of gift made in August 1110	probably Lent 1111	
84	1133	332	Winchester	1107 × 1116, but probably after 000,		Lent 1111 ×	

§	<i>Regesta</i>	Farrer	Place-date	date-range from document	chronicle date	combined date	H1/000
				<i>Regesta</i> 973, so Lent 1111 × 1116		1116	
85, 86	700	126	Cornbury	1100 × 1106, perhaps 1102	—		
87	980	281	Windsor	1108 × 1115	—		
88	972	280	Westminster	1108 × 1116	—		
89	982	—	Reading	1108 × 1116	—		
90	1128	356	Reading	1108 × 1116, perhaps × 1111	—		
91	983	289	Newbury	1107 × 1116	—		
92	1402	—	Wallingford	Jan 1121 × Jun 1123	—		
93	855	—	Winchester	1100 × 1107	—		
94	520	—	London	Nov 1100 × Easter 1101	—		
95	1258	—	Abingdon	Probably 1126 × 1133	—		
96	938	163	Marlborough	1107 × 1116	—		
97	1612	—	Windsor	1100 × 1129, probably <i>c.</i> 1127	—		
98	1510	—	Woodstock	<i>c.</i> 1110 × 1129, probably <i>c.</i> 1127	—		
99	724	134	Wallingford	1100 × 1108	—		
100	1037	—	Oxford	1100 × 1116	—		
101	961	—	Cornbury	Aug 1100 × <i>c.</i> 1115, perhaps × <i>c.</i> 1110	—		
102	1799	—	Woodstock	<i>c.</i> 1110 × 1133	—		
103	726	—	Wallingford	1100 × 1111	—		
104	856	—	Westminster	1100 × 1107	—		
105	615	248	Westminster at Christmas	Christmas 1102 × 1110, perhaps 1102 × 1107	—		
106	616	249	Westminster	1102 × 1110	—		
107	984	—	Newbury	1107 × 1116	—		
108	721	—	Westminster	Nov 1100 × 1105, perhaps Nov 1100 × Easter 1101	—		

§	<i>Regesta</i>	Farrer	Place-date	date-range from document	chronicle date	combined date	H1/000
109	527	87	Winchester at Easter	Easter 1101 or 1102	—		
110	1800	—	Woodstock	1102 × 1133, probably <i>c.</i> 1110 × April 1116	—		
111	528	48	Cambridge	Apr 1101 × Sept 1102	—		
112	974	318	Woodstock	1107 × Apr 1116	—		
113	979	314	Windsor	1107 × Apr 1116	—		
114	521	17	London	Nov 1100 × Easter 1101	—		
115	613	57	Westminster at Christmas	1102 × 1105	—		
116	613	57	Westminster at Christmas	1102 × 1105	—		
117	736	144	Northampton	Aug 1100 × Sept 1107	—		
118	566	—	Sutton Coutenay	Aug 1100 × 1108	—		
119	499	9	Westminster at my wedding	Nov 1100	—		
120	499n	9	Westminster at my wedding	Nov 1100	—		
121	1132	365	Windsor	1107 × Apr 1116	—		
122	695	124	Brill	Nov 1100 × Sept 1107	—		
123	725	—	Wallingford	Nov 1100 × 1108	—		
124	789	226a	Pont de l'Arche	Jan 1107 × Feb 1117	—		
125	576	329	Wolverhampton	Nov 1100 × Apr 1116, perhaps × <i>c.</i> 1107	After <i>Regesta</i> 683 implied	Perhaps Feb 1105 × <i>c.</i> 1107	
126	697	—	Beckley	1102 × 1107	—		
127	553	35	London	1100 × 1105, perhaps 1103	—		
128	814	—	Westminster	1107 × Sept	—		

§	<i>Regesta</i>	Farrer	Place-date	date-range from document	chronicle date	combined date	H1/000
				1110			
129	815	—	Cornbury	Nov 1100 × Sept 1110	—		
130	651	—	Brampton	1102 × 1106	Linked with other documents	Perhaps spring– summer 1103	
131	654	135	Westminster at Christmas	1102 × 1105	—		
132	722	73	Chute	Sept 1102 × spring 1105	—		
133	696	284	Brill	Nov 1100 × Sept 1107	—		
134	857	—	Windsor	Nov 1100 × Sept 1107	—		
135	937	253	Marlborough	1107 × 1111, perhaps Apr 1110	—		
136	854	—	Westminster	Nov 1100 × Sept 1107	—		
137, 138	816	175		attests 813	—		
(139)					7 Hen I		
140, 141	674	102	London	Perhaps Aug × Sept 1106	—		
142	676	103	Lyons-la- Forêt	Late 1106	—		
143	742	149	Rockingham	Jul–Sept 1107	—		
144, 145, 146	812	349	Westminster	1107 × 1117	Confirmation of gifts made April and May 7 Hen I	May 1107 × Jul 1108	
147, 148, 149, (150)	893	277	Winchester	c. 1107 × 1111	Confirms gift said to be made in 8 Hen I  13 Hen I	Aug 1107 × Jul 1108	
151, 152	701	127	Cornbury	1101 × 1107	14 Hen I for sequel		
153, 154	813	174	Westminster at Whitsun	Sept 1102 × Sept 1107	After a gift dated to 7 Hen I	2 June 1107	

§	<i>Regesta</i>	Farrer	Place-date	date-range from document	chronicle date	combined date	H1/000
155, 156	956	250	Romsey	1110	—		
(157)							
158	1092	367		Aug 1114 × Sept 1115	—		
159, 160	1110	—	—	1100 × Feb 1117	Confirming a gift said to have been made in 15 Hen I	Aug 1114 × Apr 1116	
161	858	—	London	1100 × Sept 1107	—		
162	959	274	Cornbury	1100 ×× April 1116, probably 1110	—		
163, 164	703	129	Cornbury	1102 × 1107, perhaps Oct 1102	—		
165, 166, 167	728 1111	97 —	Besselsleigh Winchester	1102 × 1105 1107 × Apr 1116	— —		
168, 169	1000	323	Winchester	Jul 1108 × May 1109 or perhaps Aug × Sept 1111			
(170)	952			not an act	10 Hen I		
(171)					1105, 1108		
(172)					11 Hen I		
(173)					—		
174, 175	Not in <i>Regesta</i>	—	Westminster	1102 × 1139	Narrative implies shortly before Lent 1113		
(176)					14 Hen I		
(177)					—		
178	Not in <i>Regesta</i>			(lost act) —	After Feb 1117		
(179)					—		
180, 181	683	114	Romsey	Feb 1105	—		
(182)							
183	cited at						

§	<i>Regesta</i>	Farrer	Place-date	date-range from document	chronicle date	combined date	H1/000
	553						
184	cited at 651						
(185)							
(186)							
(187, 188)	cited at 521						
(193, 194)	cited at 521						
(232)	1211	393			1119		
235	1259	414	Woodstock	1121 × Jan 1123	—		
236, 237	1477	533	London	(interpolated) 1126 × 1127	—		
238	1478	—	London	1123 × 1133	narrative associates with <i>Regesta</i> 1477	perhaps 1126 × 1127	
239	1516	—	Woodstock	1121 × 1127	—		
255	1641	613	Winchester	Mar × Sept 1130	—		

## ABBOT FARITIUS: NOT LATER THAN 1108

00 Possible lost act ordering the monks to show due obedience to Faritius, appointed as abbot. 1 November 1100

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 144r ('De uenerando Faritio abbate huius ecclesie qui distractas possessiones reuocauit et inuenta tota sagacitate accumulauit') [C]. There is a leaf missing between present fols. 130 and 131 of BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii) [B].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 44 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 64 (§ 55) [from C].

CALENDAR: Farrer 8; *Regesta* 498.

Anno ergo ab incarnatione Christi MC, predicto Henrico regnante, quarto mense principatus ipsius, id est Nouembri, die celebritatis Omnium Sanctorum, per manum episcopi Lincoliensis Rotberti domnum

Faritium, ex Malmesbiriensi cenobio monachum, Abendoniam direxit, et ut debitam illi subiectionem deferrent monachis mandavit, utiliore eis fore nusquam, ut rebatur, posse se prouidere patronum contestans.

*In the year 1100, with the foresaid Henry as king, in the fourth month of his rule, that is in November on the feast of All Saints, by the hand of Robert bishop of Lincoln, (the king) sent Faritius, a monk of Malmesbury, to Abingdon and ordered the monks to show him due obedience, swearing that, in his opinion, he could not provide any patron who would be more useful to them.*

DATE: The date 1 November 1100 is provided by the narrative.

CONTEXT: The Abingdon history does not actually refer to a document, but Farrer and the editors of *Regesta* have taken ‘mandavit’ as evidence of a royal writ. At this date, the appointment of Faritius as abbot would have been done by writ-charter, either a single document addressed to the shires where the abbey had lands or separate notifications to the several shires. Examples survive, for example, from St Albans in 1100 (000, *Regesta* 512) and Ramsey in 1102 (000, *Regesta* 607). Given the retentiveness of the archive, it is surprising that no such writ-charter survives for Faritius, though the equivalent acts appointing Abbot Vincent and Abbot Ingulf were copied into the chronicle, and in Vincent’s case also into the cartularies (000, 000, *Regesta* 1259, 1641). The fact that Faritius was apparently conducted to Abingdon by Bishop Robert as the king’s representative would not serve to notify the shires. Whether the king’s command to the monks to obey their new abbot was also carried as a mandate or delivered *uiua uoce* by the bishop is uncertain. A near parallel is provided by the writ of William II ordering the men of Stow to obey Abbot Columbanus (W2/000; *Regesta* 334), which accompanied the writ-charter appointing the abbot. There are other acts ordering laymen to obey an ecclesiastical lord, but the only mention of obedience enjoined by King Henry on monks is in 000, *Regesta* 1680, requiring the brethren of Notre-Dame-du-Désert to obey the bishop of Evreux. The ecclesiastical expression *debita subiectio* is not found in any authentic royal act of this period and is unlikely to come from a lost writ.

00 Writ-charter notifying sheriffs and sworn men of all England that the king has confirmed the customs of the abbey as granted by King Edward and confirmed by writs of King William I or King William II. 11 November 1100.

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152r (‘Confirmatio carte regis Eadwardi’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 32r (‘De consuetudinibus terrarum’, no. iiij, omits witnesses) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 88 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 73 [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 52 (L73) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 130 (§ 119) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 9; *Regesta* 499.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus uicecomitibus suis et omnibus suis fidelibus totius regni Anglie salutem. Sciatis me concessisse sancte Marie Abbendonie omnes consuetudines terrarum suarum quecumque iacent in ecclesia predicta ubicumque eas habeat, in burgo uel extra burgum, secundum quod monachi eiusdem loci poterunt demonstrare per breuem uel cartam ecclesiam sancte Marie de Abbendonam habuisse dono regis Eadwardi, et secundum quod pater meus et frater concesserunt per breuia sua. T(este) Eud(one) dap(ifero). Apud Westm(onasterium) in nuptiis meis.

*Henry king of the English to all his sheriffs and all his sworn men of all the realm of England greeting. Know that I have granted to St Mary of Abingdon all the customs of its lands, whatever belongs to the foresaid church and wherever it shall have them, within borough or without, according as the monks of the place will be able to show by writ or charter that the church of St Mary of Abingdon had by gift of King Edward and according as my father and my brother granted by their writs. Witness Eudo Dapifer. At Westminster at the time of my wedding.*

DATE: The king was married on 11 November 1100.

ADDRESS: The address is presumably intended for the shire courts where the church of Abingdon holds lands. See Context.

WITNESS: Eudo Dapifer.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: Less than two weeks after Abbot Faritius was nominated, the abbey obtained three general writs, all of them dated ‘in nuptiis meis’. This one concerns the customs of the abbey’s lands, without further precision, as they were given by King Edward. A second general writ (000) concerns the abbey’s ‘sake and soke and customs’, clarifying that the term ‘customs’ refers to the usual judicial privileges, and mentions infangthief as an afterthought. A third (000), which did not make its way into the chronicle, protects the abbey’s goods from toll and passage. All have the same witness and the same date. Although none of them names Abbot Faritius, it is clear that they reflect his reassertion of the abbot’s privileges after the vacancy. This context note will look at them in turn.

The present act cites the precedents of writs in the name of William I and William II. It is closely modelled on William I’s act for Abbot Adelelm (W1/4, 1071 × 1083; Stevenson, ii. 1; Hudson, ii. 2, § 2), addressed to Archbishop Lanfranc, Robert d’Oilly (as sheriff of Oxford), Roger de Pîtres (sheriff of Gloucester), and ‘omnibus aliis fidelibus totius regni Anglie’, which Bates conjectures to reflect a commission of inquiry into Abingdon’s tenures. The wording ‘totius regni Anglie’ is unique among William I’s address clauses and very rare among Henry I’s. Lanfranc and Robert d’Oilly are also named in a writ-charter addressed to Warwickshire (W1/5; Stevenson,

ii. 8; Hudson, ii. 12, § 9). Henry I's draftsman has simply replaced the three named men with 'sheriffs'. As a notification, we may infer that its purpose was that of a writ-charter that could be presented in any shire court, so that it serves as an act addressed to the shires where the abbey held lands. The remainder of the text follows William I's closely:

William I	Henry I
<p><i>Willelmus rex Anglorum Lanfranco archiepiscopo Roberto de Oilleio et Rogero de Pistri et omnibus aliis fidelibus suis totius regni Anglie salutem.</i></p> <p>Sciatis me concessisse sancte Marie de Abbendonie <i>et Adelelmo abbati eiusdem loci</i> omnes consuetudines terrarum suarum quecumque iacent in ecclesia predicta ubicumque eas habeat, in burgo uel extra burgum, secundum quod <i>abbas iste Adelelmus</i> poterit demonstrare per breue uel cartam, ecclesiam sancte Marie de Abbendonie <i>et predecessorem suum eas consuetudines</i> habuisse dono regis Eadwardi.</p>	<p><i>Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus uicecomitibus suis et omnibus suis fidelibus totius regni Anglie salutem.</i></p> <p>Sciatis me concessisse sancte Marie Abbendonie omnes consuetudines terrarum suarum quecumque iacent in ecclesia predicta ubicumque eas habeat, in burgo uel extra burgum, secundum quod <i>monachi eiusdem loci</i> poterunt demonstrare per breuem uel cartam ecclesiam sancte Marie de Abbendonie habuisse dono regis Eadwardi, <i>et secundum quod pater meus et frater concesserunt per breuia sua.</i></p> <p><i>T(este) Eud(one) dap(ifero). Apud Westm(onasterium) in nuptiis meis.</i></p>

William I's act named the abbot but Henry I's substitutes 'monks' in spite of the fact that Abbot Faritus had been appointed ten days before the king's wedding. It is hard to see what thinking lay behind this.

The second general writ (000) cites no precedent, but is clearly modelled on an extant act in William II's name. It is possible that, rather than conjecturing a lost precedent in William II's name for the first general writ, we should allow that its precedent clause embraces this second writ drafted on the same occasion. It is addressed to sheriffs in whose shrievalties the abbey has lands, but Henry I's draftsman adds the bailliwicks of *ministri* without including 'et ministris':

William II	Henry I
<p><i>Willelmus rex Angl(orum) uicecomitibus suis in quorum uicecomitatibus abbatia de Abbendonie terras habet salutem.</i></p> <p>Precipio ut tota terra abbatie de Abbendonie ita bene et pleniter habeat sacham suam et socham et omnes consuetudines suas sicut melius habuit et plenius tempore regis Eadwardi et patris mei. Et defendo ne aliquis inde iniuriam faciat. Test(e) Eud(one) dapifero per</p>	<p><i>Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus uicecomitibus suis in quorum uicecomitatibus et ministeriis abbatia Abbendonie terras habet salutem.</i></p> <p>Precipio ut tota terra abbatie de Abbendonie ita bene et pleniter habeat sacham suam et socam et omnes consuetudines suas <i>in burgo et extra burgum</i> sicut melius habuit et plenius tempore regis Eadwardi et patris mei, <i>et latronem similiter sicuti tunc temporis</i></p>

Radulfum de Languetot. Apud Legam. <i>Et hundredum de Hornimere, sicut tunc temporis habuit. T(estibus) predictis (sic).</i>	<i>habuit. Et defendo ne aliquis ei inde iniuriam faciat. T(este) Eud(one) dap(ifero). Apud Westm(onasterium) in nuptiis meis. Et etiam sicuti frater meus per breuem suum precepit. T(este) eodem.</i>
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The text of King Henry's act shows several signs of hasty drafting: infangthief is added almost as an afterthought, and, unusually, in Latin, tacked on at the end of a sentence, and the precedent of William II's confirmation is an addition at the end of the writ; 'in ministeriis' without 'et ministris' appears to have been the draftsman's choice rather than the copyist's mistake. One could think that Abbot Faritius was looking over the draftsman's shoulder to pick up the omission of infangthief before the end of the sentence.

The third general writ provides exemption from tolls and passage. Again it cites no precedent, but the writ on which it is modelled survives and may be assigned to William I (W1/6) or to William II (W2/000):

William I or William II	Henry I
Willelmus rex Anglorum uiccomitibus suis et ministris totius Anglie salutem.  Sciatis quod uolo et precipio ut omnia que ministri monachorum Abbendonie ement ad uictum monachorum in ciuitatibus et burgis et omnibus mercatis omnino sint quieta ab omni theloneo et consuetudine. Et prohibeo uobis, sicut me diligitis, ne aliquis uestrum amodo illis inde iniuriam faciat. Teste Eudone dapifero apud Bruhellam.	Henricus rex Angl<orum> omnibus uic(ecomitibus) et ministris [et omnibus balliuis] totius Angl(ie) salutem.  Sciatis quod uolo et precipio ut omnia que ministri monachorum Abbend' emerint ad uictum <i>et uestitum et utensilia</i> monachorum in ciuitatibus et burgis et in omnibus mercatis omnino sint quieta ab omni theloneo et consuetudine <i>et passagio</i> . Et prohibeo ne aliquis <i>eos inquietet super X libras forisfacture</i> . Teste Eud(one) dap(ifero). Aput Westmost' in nuptiis meis.

The elaboration of 'ad uictum' to 'ad uictum et uestitum et utensilia' is unique among surviving writs of this kind and shows that 000, *Regesta* 1258, was modelled on this text.

What the draftsman intended by referring to writs of the king's father and brother in the first of the three new acts is uncertain. Perhaps two precedents were offered for this act, William II's being now lost. We should not too hastily reject the possibility, however, that the draftsman was provided with three precedents for three new writs, and recognizing acts of the king's father and his brother among them he wrote a generalized reference to them in the first of the three new acts rather than making mention of precedents separately in all three new acts.

00 General writ instructing sheriffs and officials that the abbey shall have its judicial privileges, as in King Edward's time and King William I's, and as confirmed by King William II. 11 November 1100

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152r–v ('De consuetudinibus huius ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 32r–v ('De sacha et soca et consuetudinibus', no. v) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 89 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 52 (L74) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 130 (§ 120) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 9; *Regesta* 499n, notes after describing 000, 'Two writs of even date, similarly attested, directed to all sheriffs where the abbey has lands, the second with the clause *sicuti frater meus per breue suum precepit*, are given on the following page'.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um omnibus uicecomitibus suis in quorum uicecomitatibus et ministeriis abbatia Abbdone terras habet salutem. Precipio ut tota terra abbacie de Abbdona ita bene<sup>a</sup> et pleniter habeat sacam suam et socam et omnes consuetudines suas in burgo et extra burgum sicut melius habuit et plenius tempore regis Eadwardi et patris mei, et latronem similiter sicuti tunc temporis habuit. Et defendo ne aliquis ei inde iniuriam faciat. T(este) Eud(one) dap(ifero). Apud Westm(onasterium) in nuptiis meis. Et etiam sicuti frater meus per breuem suum precepit. T(este) eodem.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> bene D, *anticipating* melius, as in the writ of William II ] plene BC    <sup>b</sup> Eud' D

*Henry king of the English to all his sheriffs in whose shrievalties and bailliwicks the abbey of Abingdon has lands greeting. I command that all the land of the abbey of Abingdon shall have its sake and soke and all its customs within borough and without as <well> and fully as it well and fully had them in King Edward's time and my father's, and infangthief likewise as it had in that time. And I forbid that anyone shall cause it injury in this matter. Witness Eudo Dapifer. At Westminster at the time of my wedding. And also as my brother commanded by his writ. Witness the same.*

DATE: As preceding act.

ADDRESS: General writ. There is variation in the combination of sheriffs and officials with shrievalties and *ministeria*; matched pairs are found (000, *Regesta* 541 for Bishop Ranulf of Durham, 000, *Regesta* 595 for St Albans, 000, *Regesta* 605 for Ramsey), but one more often finds 'in ministeriis' as the generalized term (000, *Regesta* 563 for Michael of Hanslope, 000, *Regesta* 1069 for Tewkesbury, 000, *Regesta* 1375 for

Spalding, &c.). This is the only example of two words for the areas of jurisdiction and only one word referring to officials, but the agreement of D with BC suggests this was in the original.

WITNESS: Eudo Dapifer.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: See note on 000, *Regesta* 499.

## 00 General writ exempting the goods of the monks from toll and passage. 11 November 1100

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 35r–v ('Item de thelon(io), consuet(udinibus) et passag(is)', no. xxviiij) [D].

PRINTED: Lambrick & Slade, i. 62 (L97) [from D].

CALENDAR: Not in *Regesta*.

Henricus rex Angl<orum><sup>a</sup> omnibus uic(ecomitibus) et ministris [et omnibus balliuis]<sup>b</sup> totius Angl(ie) salutem. Sciatis quod uolo et precipio ut omnia que ministri monachorum Abbend' emerint ad uictum et uestitum et utensilia monachorum in ciuitatibus et burgis et in omnibus mercatis omnino sint quieta ab omni theloneo et consuetudine et passagio. Et prohibeo ne aliquis eos inquietet super X libras forisfacture. Teste Eud(one) dap(ifero). Aput Westmost' in nuptiis meis.

<sup>a</sup> Anglie D, *unusually*      <sup>b</sup> *subpuncted in D as scribal error; found in only one address in England in Henry I's time, 000, Regesta 1167 for Thorney abbey*

*Henry king of the English to all sheriffs and officials of all England greeting. Know that I will and command that everything that the officials of the monks of Abingdon buy for the sustenance and clothing and utilities of the monks in cities and boroughs and in all markets shall be entirely quit of all toll and custom and passage. And I forbid that anyone shall trouble them on £10 of forfeit. Witness Eudo Dapifer. At Westminster at the time of my wedding.*

DATE: As preceding acts.

ADDRESS: General writ.

WITNESS: Eudo Dapifer.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: See note on 000, *Regesta* 499.

AUTHENTICITY: Lambrick & Slade observed that this act 'could be a compilation of the facts of L96 [i.e. *Regesta* 1258, 1126 × 1133] and the witness and dating of L73 [i.e.

000, *Regesta* 499, dated 11 November 1100]'. While it *could* be, there is no reason to suppose it is. Writs of this kind are commonly reissued. This one is not out of place in the batch obtained in November 1100. *Regesta* 1258 was a later renewal; it was based on this act, which stands in a clearly intermediate position between the precedent in the name of William I or William II and the later document. So, for example, the phrase 'ab omni theloneo et consuetudine' (W1/6 = W2/000), becomes here 'ab omni theloneo et consuetudine et passagio' (H1/000), and later 'de theloneo et passagio et omni consuetudine' (H1/000, *Regesta* 1258). Its dating clause and its early date make it revealing to the modern student, but its close similarity to 0000, *Regesta* 1258, explains its omission by the Abingdon history. Another writ, differently worded, allowing exemption from toll and passage, is 000, *Regesta* 938.

00 Writ ordering the sheriff to reise the abbey of land alienated by Modbert during the vacancy. November 1100 × Easter 1101

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152r ('De terris quas Motbertus dedit uel prestitit') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140v [C]. ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 87r (abstract) [from C]. PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 86 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 111 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 448 (no. 71) ('novel disseisin'), 485 (no. 137) ('justicies') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 126 (§ 114) [from BC]. CALENDAR: Farrer 17; *Regesta* 521.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) salutem. Precipio tibi ut eas Abbendonam, et de omnibus terris quas Modbertus dedit uel prestitit uel emit ab aliquo et dedit alii, resaisias ecclesiam et iuste facias habere, sicut de Herberto camerario et Warino Caluo et Turstino et Hugone et omnibus aliis, ita ne amplius inde pro recti penuria audiam clamorem. T(estibus) W(illelmo)<sup>a</sup> cancell(ario) et Rog(ero) cap(ellano). Apud Lond(oniam).

<sup>a</sup> Will(elmo) C

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland greeting. I command you that you shall go to Abingdon and reise the church of all the lands that Modbert gave or leased or bought from one and gave to another and cause it justly to have them as in the case of Herbert the chamberlain and Warin the bald and Thurstan and Hugh and all others, so that I shall hear no more complaint in this matter for want of right. Witness William the chancellor and Roger the chaplain. At London.*

CHRONICLE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 143v ('De Motberto huius ecclesie preposito') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 130v [C].  
 PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 42–3 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 60–62 (§ 53) [from BC].

Positio ergo loci Abendonensis in census redditione post abbatis Rainaldi obitum IIII et paulo plus dimidii annorum ad tempus computata est. In quo spacio Motbertus ecclesie huius monachus curam rerum infra extraue ministrabat, non ecclesie prouectibus sed regii marsupii mercibus. Cuius noticie insinuatum est quia Hugo de Dun de terra Lechamstede que sibi ad tempus credita fuerat suggereret regi quatinus accepto pretio sibi ea libere uti et suis posteris eius dono permetteretur. Quare comitis Mellentis Roberti senioris ope adiutus regi tantundem census quantum in uadimonio eadem terra fuerat posita, id est XX libras, dedit, et eo dato terram edicto regio recepit, predicto Hugone habente quicquid exituum inde processerat dum in manu eandem tenuisset. Itaque postea causa consultuum suorum negotiorum Herberto regis cubiculario et thesaurario delegatione commendaticia assignauit et hoc quamdiu publicam huius loci actionem procuraret. Similiter et Hugoni de Bochelanda tres hidas apud Hanni eadem consideratione commisit eo quod et Berchescire uicecomes et publicarum iusticiarius compellationum a rege constitutus existeret.

*The submission of the church of Abingdon to rendering royal revenue after the death of Abbot Rainald was counted as a period of a little more than four years and a half. During this time Modbert, a monk of this church, took care of matters both internal and external, not for the advantage of the church but for the profits of the king's purse. It was brought to his notice that Hugh de Dun made a suggestion to the king concerning the land of Leckhampstead, which was leased to him for a period, that for a payment of money it might allowed to him by his [sc. the king's] gift to have the free use of it for himself and his posterity. Modbert, therefore, aided by the wealth of Count Robert of Meulan, gave to the king as much money as the land was pledged for, namely £20, and having made this gift he received the land by the king's word, while the foresaid Hugh continued to have whatever income had come from the property while he held it in his own hand. And afterwards he assigned it to Herbert the king's chamberlain and treasurer, as a deposit in return for his protection, for as long as he should be the king's custodian of the church; he did this in order to have Herbert's advice in matters of business. Likewise, he committed three hides at Hanney to Hugh of Buckland on the same consideration because Hugh was sheriff of Berkshire and appointed by the king as justiciar responsible for bringing pleas in the king's interest.*

DATE: While William Giffard was chancellor, certainly until 12 March 1101, probably until he accepted the temporalities of the bishopric of Winchester at Easter 1101.

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland as sheriff of Berkshire.

WITNESS: William Giffard as chancellor; Roger the chaplain, very likely the same Roger who would succeed him as chancellor before 3 September 1101.

PLACE: London.

CONTEXT: During the vacancy after the death of Abbot Rainald, for more than four years the custody of the revenues of Abingdon abbey was in the hands of Modbert, a monk of the abbey. He was involved in various transactions that led to the alienation of property from the abbey, as described by the chronicle in the context of that vacancy of 1097–1100 (§ 53, quoted above). The writ to recover the lands forms part of the long sequence of documents without narrative (§ 114). And elsewhere the chronicler included stories about the recovery of lands alienated by Modbert, though in these the king's writ is never mentioned. We have a good illustration here of the chronicler's not seeking always to bring together the information and documentation available to him.

The writ names four men who benefited from Modbert's dealings, while the narrative of his alienations refers only to two of them. Herbert the king's treasurer is named in both contexts, and the narrative indicates the complexity of Modbert's dealings. One Hugh de Dun had earlier taken the monks' manor of Leckhampstead as security for £20 loaned to Abbot Rainald in 1093, and the loan had not been redeemed when Rainald died (chronicle, fol. 143r; Stevenson, ii. 40; Hudson, 56–8, § 48); Hugh sought to use the vacancy to convert into tenure in fee his temporary holding under pledge, he did not succeed, and Modbert transferred the estate to Herbert the chamberlain. Hugh de Dun was no longer in possession at the time of the writ, and so Hugh, named fourth in the writ, is presumably Hugh of Buckland, ordered as sheriff to reaise the abbot of the lands involved. He had evidently also benefited from Modbert's administration, receiving three hides at Hanney, but the writ makes no connexion between his name in full in the address and in brief in the text.

Much later in the narrative, towards the end of his account of Faritius's administration, the chronicler has several stories about the recovery of lands alienated by Modbert. In § 187, he tells how Thurstan fitz Rainald, named third in the writ, had received through Modbert one hide of land at Charney and a half-hide at Moor. Thurstan quitclaimed the land to Abbot Faritius for ever, though he negotiated terms that allowed him to retain a mill at Marcham. In § 188, he reports that 'for a long time' the sheriff Hugh of Buckland held three hides at Hanney, acquired through Modbert but, admonished by Abbot Faritius whom he greatly respected, he eventually restored the land to the abbey. A further complication in this case emerges in § 206, where we find that, while Hugh of Buckland held the land, his tenant was Modbert's nephew Osbern, who promised that he would render his tithes to the monks. The land alienated to Herbert the chamberlain by Abbot Rainald and by Modbert was evidently the cause of a long-running dispute, eventually resolved by agreement between Abbot Faritius and Herbert, who retained one knight's fee in Leckhampstead but surrendered the rest of the land (§§ 193–4).

The second name in the writ, Warin the bald, may perhaps be the same Warin who was a tenant of the abbey in 1086 (*DB*, i. 58v, 59v; §§ 7. 11, 41), though it seems more likely that he was someone associated with the king's court; the chronicler provides no further help in this case.

00 General writ forbidding officials to interfere with the carriage of the abbey's goods. November 1100 × Easter 1101

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150v ('Littere regis de carreio ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 40v ('Ne aliquis disturbet dominicum abbatis', no. lvj) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 78 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 105 [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 78 (L125) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 116 (§ 94) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 520.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) baronibus suis et uic(ecomitibus) et ministris suis salutem. Prohibeo ne aliquis disturbet ullo modo carreiam sancte Marie de Abbendona nec aliquid aliud quod sit dominicum abbatis uel monachorum eius uel per terram uel per aquam disturbet. Sed in pace eat et redeat quicumque rem suam siue uictum siue aliquod aliud quod ad opus ecclesie pertineat conduxerit. T(este)<sup>a</sup> W(illelmo) cancell(ario). Apud Londoniam.

<sup>a</sup> T. BC ] Teste *in full* D

*Henry king of the English to his barons and sheriffs and officials greeting. I forbid that anyone shall in any way disturb the carriage of St Mary of Abingdon or anything else that belongs to the demesne of the abbot or his monks whether on land or on water. And anyone who transports their goods whether for their sustenance or anything else that pertains to the use of the church shall go and return in peace. Witness William the chancellor. At London.*

DATE: As preceding act, and perhaps on the same occasion.

ADDRESS: The address is unusual, since 'baronibus suis' is irrelevant to the act, which would be shown to any sheriff's official who was seeking to levy toll on the abbey's goods, contravening the preceding act; 'omnibus uicecomitibus et ministris suis' would be more normal.

WITNESS: William Giffard, as chancellor.

PLACE: London.

CONTEXT: The general writ (000, not in *Regesta*) provided for exemption from tolls and passage and included a prohibition against disturbing the abbey's goods in transit with a sanction. Even so, there would seem to have been problems, leading to the abbey's obtaining a further writ that prohibited interference with transport by land or water. The unusual inclusion of 'baronibus' in the address may indicate that a hearing in the king's court lies behind the writ.

00 Writ ordering the sheriff of Berkshire to reseise the abbey of the land which Bishop Ranulf gave to Robert de Chaumont, if it is of the church's demesne. November 1100 × 1105, perhaps November 1100 × Easter 1101

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v ('De terra quam Rannulfus episcopus dedit Roberto de Calm(ont)') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 87r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 83 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 96 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 449 (no. 73) ('novel disseisin') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 122–4 (§ 108) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 721.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Hugoni de Boch(eland) salutem. Precipio tibi ut sine mora facias habere ecclesie sancte Marie de Abendona terram quam Rannulfus episcopus dedit Rotberto de Calzmont, si illa terra est de dominio predictae ecclesie, quia nolo ut ecclesia quicquam perdat quod habere debeat. T(estibus) W(illelmo) cancell(ario) et R(otberto) filio Haim(onis). Apud Westmoster<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Westmoster B Westmust' C

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland greeting. I command you that you shall without delay seise the church of St Mary of Abingdon of the land which Bishop Ranulf gave to Robert de Chaumont, if that land is of the demesne of the foresaid church, since I will that the church shall not lose anything that it ought to have. Witness W(illiam) the chancellor and R(ober) fitz Haimo. At Westminster.*

DATE: On internal evidence, certainly before Robert fitz Haimo was incapacitated, 1105, and while W. was chancellor. See Witness, where a date before Easter 1101 is inferred. The connexion with 000, *Regesta* 527, reinforces the likelihood that this dates from very early in the reign.

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland, as sheriff of Berkshire.

WITNESS: The second witness is Robert fitz Haimo, who left court after his injury in 1105. The chancellor's initial might refer to William Giffard, chancellor from before August 1100 until around Easter 1101, or to Waldric, chancellor from Michaelmas 1102 until the end of 1106. Neither of them usually witnesses with only an initial. William usually witnesses as 'Will(elmo)' or even with his surname, Waldric as

‘Wald(rico)’ just as he had previously witnessed as ‘Wald(rico) capellano’. The editors of *Regesta* took the chancellor’s initial W. for Waldric, in spite of reading it as William in fols. 150v (000, *Regesta* 520) and 152r (000, *Regesta* 521). *A priori*, one would guess that the more common name William and the first chancellor with the same initial provide two considerations why it is more likely that this is William Giffard; in his time W. was not ambiguous, but when Waldric took up office there was need for a distinction.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: This writ is linked by the chronicler with 000, *Regesta* 527, whose rubric reads, ‘Cofirmatio eiusdem terre’. See Context there.

00 Writ instructing the sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire that the monks of Abingdon shall hold in demesne the land at Wytham, which was held by the bishop of Durham, even though the land at Stanton [Harcourt] is given to another. Easter 1101 or 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v (‘Confirmatio eiusdem terre’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 84 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 124 (§ 109) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 87; *Regesta* 527.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Willelmo uicecomiti de Oxeneford et omnibus fidelibus suis de Berchescira et Oxeneford salutem. Volo et concedo ut ecclesia et monachi de Abbendona habeant et teneant in dominio illam terram suam de Witteham quam Rann(ulfus) Dunelmensis episcopus tenuit sicuti predicta ecclesia et monachi predicti unquam melius tenuerunt et habuerunt, cuicumque terram de Estantona dederō. Et nulla iniuria eis super hoc fiat. T(este) Roberto Linc(oliensi) episcopo. Apud Winc(estram) in Pascha. Per ipsum Willelmum de Oxeneford.

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and William sheriff of Oxfordshire and all his sworn men of Berkshire and Oxford greeting. I will and grant that the church and monks of Abingdon shall have and hold in demesne all their land of Wytham which Ranulf bishop of Durham held, just as the foresaid church and foresaid monks ever well held and had it, to whomsoever I give the land of Stanton. And upon this (my writ) no injury shall be caused to them. Witness Robert bishop of Lincoln. At Winchester during Easter. By the same William of Oxford.*

DATE: The reference to the gift of Stanton associates this act with 000, *Regesta* 528, datable April 1101 × September 1102. *Regesta* plausibly guessed at Easter 1101 for this one, though the king kept Easter at Winchester in both years. Farrer had not made the connexion and therefore allowed a wider date-range, 1101 × 1104, and placed the act in sequence under 1104.

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland and William of Oxford, as sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln. In the *per*-clause, William of Oxford, sheriff of Oxfordshire.

PLACE: Winchester.

CONTEXT: This act is one of a group, §§ 108–111 in the chronicle, without narrative setting. It is not clear that the chronicle places them in the correct sequence, and in any case § 110 (000, *Regesta* 1800), is not related.

The present document refers to both Wytham (Berks) and Stanton Harcourt (Oxon), estates separated by the river Thames. Its rubric refers to ‘*eiusdem terre*’, which links it to the preceding writ, § 108 (000, *Regesta* 721), addressed to the sheriff of Berkshire, from which we can infer that ‘the the land which Bishop Ranulf gave to Robert de Chaumont’ was Wytham. The sheriff of Berkshire is there ordered to reseise the abbot, and it would be plausible to interpret the writ as one of a pair with this writ-charter to the shire court. They are not a pair, however, for this is dated at Winchester and the writ is dated at Westminster, so they must have been sealed at different dates. After the unrelated document in § 110, there follows as § 111 a writ ordering the shire to determine whether three virgates of land belong to the manor of Stanton; if so, Rualoc of Avranches shall have them, to whom the king has given that manor; if not, then the abbot of Abingdon shall have them. This writ is place-dated at Cambridge and again relates to the present document, with its allusion to the king’s giving Stanton to someone unnamed.

Dating is uncertain. In the case of 000, *Regesta* 721, the chancellor might be either William (1100 × 1101) or Waldric (1102 × 1106), though the former is more plausible; in 000, *Regesta* 528, the chancellor is Roger (1101 × 1102). It is therefore important to infer relative dates from the business itself. The last is certainly later than the present act, for the gift of Stanton is not settled here but in 00 it is referred to in the past. The relative date of 00 and 00 is less apparent, but it is unlikely that the writ was held over until after 00, so in all likelihood context supports the suppositions made above that the chancellor in 00 is William Giffard and its date probably no later than April 1101. We are concerned with events of 1100–1102.

First, it appears that the manor of Wytham (Berks) was held by Bishop Ranulf during the immediately preceding period, and that he gave it to Robert de Chaumont. This was a property amounting to five hides in 1086, when it was held by Hubert (*DB*, i. 58v; Berks § 7. 3). It formed part of the abbey’s fifty-hide estate of Cumnor. Bishop Ranulf may have obtained Wytham during the vacancy; and the restoration of the land to Abingdon is likely to have happened during the period when Bishop Ranulf was out of favour with the king, in particular between the summer of 1100 and the summer of 1101. Abingdon claims the land as its demesne, but, as Hudson, ii. 123n, notes, members of a family with the surname de Calmont or de Chaumon continue to hold as tenants of the abbey in and near Wytham in the twelfth century, so that the claim to hold it in demesne did not succeed, though Ranulf’s claim was quashed. Stanton,

meanwhile, was in the king's hands. This manor of twenty-six hides had been held by Bishop Odo in 1086 (*DB*, i. 155v; Oxon § 7. 3); it fell to the king with the bishop's forfeiture, and King Henry gave it to Rualoc at a time when the issue concerning Wytham was already active.

The final dispute over three virgates (000, *Regesta* 528) follows the two grants in the chronicle. Since the estates are on opposite sides of the River Thames, it is possible that the three virgates were land where the river's channels made it uncertain to which shire and estate it belonged. The exact location is impossible to determine, in part because Stanton would face Cumnor rather than Wytham across the river. Two later writs concern a sluice belonging to the abbot, which the men of Stanton had broken; if this affected the channels, it may reinforce the supposition (000, 000, *Regesta* 814, 815). Concerning the dispute K. L. Shirley, 'Faritius of Abingdon and the king's court', 183, notes that the king, unusually where Abingdon is concerned, does not provide a ruling in favour of the abbot but refers the question to the two shires. He takes this as evidence that the king was reluctant to offend either his friend Faritius or Rualoc whom he has just rewarded, but there may rather be a sense that whether certain land lies on one side of the river or the other is a matter of fact to be settled in accordance with local judgement.

The editors of *Regesta* reflect, 'It is rather difficult to class this writ technically as it opens with *Volo et concedo*'. It is unusual for them to draw attention to such a point. The word *concedo* is most often used in the disposition, whereas *uolo* is most often used in the injunction. The combination 'uolo et concedo' is not unusual, but it is not easily classified. Here the weight of the act is on the injunction that the monks shall have and hold, which would normally form part of the clause *Quare uolo et firmiter precipio*, but there is no preceding disposition. The inclusion of *concedo* combines the king's disposition with the tenurial injunction. Compare, for example, an original writ for Durham, 0000, *Regesta* 1355, whose tenor begins, 'Volo et concedo et firmiter precipio'; similar examples in 0000, *Regesta* 1232 for Canterbury cathedral; 0000, *Regesta* 1512 for Colchester abbey. More unusual but not therefore suspect is 0000, *Regesta* 760 for Bury St Edmunds, which has a word of notification, 'Sciatis quod uolo et concedo ut'. It is also found in injunctions following a dispositive clause, for example, 0000, *Regesta* 494 for Malmesbury, 'Et uolo et concedo ut'.

## 00 Writ of Queen Matilda ordering the sheriff of Berkshire to allow Abbot Faritius to have lead from the remains of the king's houses in the isle of Andersey. May 1101 × February 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 145v ('De insula Andresia') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 132r-v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 43v (no. 56) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 51 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 74 (§ 57) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 40; *Regesta* 565.

Insula quedam australem ad plagam monasterii illo in tempore sita, Andresia a nomine apostoli Andree cuius inibi ecclesia habebatur nuncupata, diuersis in girum domunculis multiplici decore constipata erat. Quo in loco Willelmus rex senior et filius eius Willelmus rex iunior post patrem sepe hospitari, cum in hanc prouinciam deuerterent, delegerant, quandoquidem oblectamento non paruo hospes ibi frueretur, hinc aqua circumfluente perspicua, illinc pratorum uiridantium demulcente illecebra. Vbi ipse rex Willelmus senior et sanguinis diminutione et antidoti perceptione se recreare solebat. Qua de causa huius dominium mansionis potestas regia sibi uendicarat.

Rege ergo Henrico ad regnum nouiter electo, cum multa que antecessorum suorum regum dominio pertinuerant multi sibi donari petiuissent, et ipse prudenti usus consultu cuncta petita distribueret, utpote petitoribus adhuc inferior; sed processu temporis superior fieri cogitans, nonnulli locum predictum ab ipso principe temptabant adipisci. uerum regina Mathildis pre ceteris hunc impetrandi facultatem assecuta est. Nec multo post regia eam primo contigit prole grauari. Mandatur mox medicis ei curam impendere, pronostica edicere, ne in aliquo periclitetur. Quorum primus abbas Faritius, secundus Grimmaldus, uterque gentis et lingue unius, ac per hoc plurimo inter se deuincti amore fuere. Tali comite abbas de ecclesie sancte Marie Abbendonensis reedificatione, coram regina quadam die intulit sermonem, quia multa uidelicet tanto operi, tam in parietum quam tectorum structura, conueniret stipendia impendere, illam uero de dei gratia posse ualde confidere, si in aliquo sua regina liberalitate id processum operationis caperet. Sciscitante tum regina quid necessarium magis, quidue aptius ipsa consulere ualeret, de insula prefata Abbendonie sita abbas refert, quia nec deo in ea seruiatur, nec hominibus eius usus habeatur, a principio sue foundationis habitore uacua, nisi cum raro dominum Anglie transcursim hospitem reciperet, ob uetustatem autem et incuriam rimis undique parietum patula. Quod si eius benignitati placeret, pro regis tuitione et salute suaque, deo concedente, permetteret quicquid in ipsis edificiis haberetur edificio ecclesie sancte dei genitricis Marie imponi, ubi fructus pietatis inde caperetur. His rationibus, quod solet sepe animos demulcere, de donatio pariter interserens tante persone congruo, id responsi recepit, se hac uice plumbi quo uniuersa habitacula ibi cooperta erant sibi concedere tollendi facultatem, tectum uero sue ecclesie ex eo contegendum, et de ceteris spe bona inniti. Itaque sue largitatis huius apices uicecomiti Berchescire destinauit, ista continentes:

Mathildis regina Anglorum Hugoni de Bochelanda salutem.  
 Permite Faritium abbatem de Abbendona habere plumbum de  
 domibus de Andresia ad opus ecclesie sue Abbendone.  
 T(estibus) Radulfo de Tuin<sup>a</sup> et Bernardo clerico. Apud  
 Suttunam.

<sup>a</sup> Tuin BC ] Tiuu conj. Salter, as noted by Farrer

*On the south side of the monastery there was an island, which was named Andersey from the apostle Andrew, whose church was there. At that time it was crowded with various small buildings presenting a rather multifarious appearance. Here King William the elder and his son King William the younger after him had often chosen to stay when they came into this county, for a visitor might stay there with great delight, enjoying the clear water on one side and the soothing charm of verdant meadows on the other. Here King William the elder used to stay to refresh himself whenever he was bled or followed a medical regime. For this reason the royal power kept to itself the lordship of this dwelling-place.*

*When King Henry was newly elected as king, many men petitioned him to be given many properties that had belonged to the lordship of his royal ancestors, and he, following wise counsel, would give away everything that was asked for while he still needed the support of those who petitioned. Before long, however, as he thought his position became stronger, there were several men who still tried to obtain this island from the king, but Queen Matilda easily obtained it before all others. Soon afterwards it happened that she became pregnant for the first time with a royal child. The order was given to physicians to attend her and to take every precaution that she should be in no danger. First among these was Abbot Faritius, second was Grimaldus, two men of the same nation and language who were for this reason great friends with one another. In such company the abbot one day talked about the rebuilding of the church of St Mary of Abingdon in the presence of the queen, for he needed to expend a great deal on this work, on the fabric of both roof and walls, but by the grace of God he had great confidence that the rebuilding would be possible if in some way the queen would by her generosity take it upon herself to support the work. Once the queen knew what was more necessary or what she might more appropriately be able to advise, the abbot mentions that foresaid island located at Abingdon, for since it was first established there was neither service to God nor use to men there, for it was uninhabited except when, occasionally, it should receive the king of England to lodge there on his journey, and now from age and lack of maintenance the walls gaped with cracks on all sides. But if it should please the queen's kindness, and with regard to the king's salvation and her own, God willing, she might permit whatever was of use in those buildings to be put into the building of the church of St Mary Mother of God, wherein the benefit of her piety might be received. Interspersing such arguments at the same time with words about how giving befits so great a person, in a way that always wins over people's minds, he received this for an answer, that she would grant on this occasion permission to take the lead which covered the roofs of the houses there so that he might complete the roof of the church with it, and in other matters that he should press on in good*

*hope. Therefore she sent a letter concerning her gift to the sheriff of Berkshire in these words:*

*Matilda queen of the English to Hugh of Buckland greeting. Allow Faritius abbot of Abingdon to have lead from the houses of Andersey for the building of his church of Abingdon. Witness Ralf de Tuin and Bernard the clerk. At Sutton.*

DATE: The narrative provides a context during the queen's first pregnancy, May 1101–February 1102, when she was attended by Abbot Faritius and Grimaldus the physician, both Italians. The associated documents (00, 00, *Regesta* 567, 550) provide a more reliable date-range in the period when Roger was chancellor, from perhaps as early as Easter 1101 to Michaelmas 1102.

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland, as sheriff of Berkshire.

WITNESS: Ralf de Tuin is unidentified. Bernard the clerk is presumably Bernard the queen's chaplain, later bishop of St Davids.

PLACE: Sutton Courtenay, Berks, a manor of the royal demesne, where at this period the shire court of Berkshire would sometimes meet (Stevenson, ii. 160; Hudson, ii. 226, § 232).

CONTEXT: This is the first of three documents quoted by the chronicle in a full narrative setting. This part of the narrative leads to the inclusion of a writ in the queen's name, acting apparently in her own right, allowing Abbot Faritius to remove lead from the unused buildings of the king's house. The narrative continues to tell how Abbot Faritius further asked the queen for the stones and timbers of the buildings, which she granted to him by a writ-charter, adding the gift of the island (000, *Regesta* 567). The queen's writ-charter refers to the king's consent, which is itself documented in a further writ-charter in his name (000, *Regesta* 550); this refers to lead as well as stones and timber, and so it might be thought of as confirming both the queen's acts. The chronicle has placed the acts in a plausible sequence, but the reference in the queen's second act to the king's consent opens the possibility that the king's act precedes it. If that were so, however, why did the queen provide an unnecessary further act? The best sequence is probably that of the chronicle, though one might suppose that the queen's second act (which has no place-date) was made at Windsor on the same occasion as the king's confirmation. Farrer, for no stated reason, reversed the first two acts. Obviously no part of the church could be roofed with lead until the walls had reached full height, but in stripping down the old buildings the lead would be removed first. Perhaps we may infer that the queen offered the lead, thereby indicating that the king's house would be abandoned and opening the way to the abbot's asking for the remaining materials. This is probably a reason for thinking that the queen's two acts are close together in date.

The narrative conveys little information about the transactions that could not have been derived from the three documents. The only significant points not so derivable are that the context is during the queen's first pregnancy and that there were others who wanted the island and intended to use it in ways that would disadvantage the abbey. Neither need be true. The wider setting, about how King William I used the king's house at Andersey or William II stayed here, is beyond verification, but it leaves unexplained why the house should be so near to derelict at the very beginning of King Henry's reign.

Monastic tradition maintained that Andersey had been held by a rich family that led a monastic life and made the abbey their heir. Towards the end of the eighth

century, King Offa of Mercia occupied much of West Saxon Berkshire (Stevenson, i. 15; Hudson, i. 246–8, § B12), and he was thought to have taken Andersey from the monks, giving them Goosey in exchange, and to have first built the king's house, in which his son and short-lived successor 'Egbertus' (*recte* Ecgfrith) died at the end of 796 (*De abbatibus*, 273). Ræthhun (d. 839/40), bishop of the Mercians and abbot of Abingdon, is said to have recovered Andersey at great cost, giving the estate of Sutton Courtenay instead to King Coenwulf (ib. 274). The same source, however, says that King Athelstan used to stay at Andersey and even died there (ib. 277). In Edward the Confessor's time the island was held by Blackman, who built the church of St Andrew, from whom the island was said to take its name and who fled England after the Conquest (Chronicle, ed. Stevenson, i. 474; *De abbatibus*, 283). From his forfeited lands the abbot recovered from King William all except part of Andersey, which the king retained, so that the cluster of buildings erected by Blackman remained a royal lodging until the time of Faritius. Andersey does not appear in Domesday Book. Nor is it mentioned in any of the pre-Conquest charters of the abbey, authentic or spurious. The streams defining the island of Andersey must have been affected by the cutting of a channel in the time of Edward the Confessor and Abbot Ordric (see 000, *Regesta* 937 and notes there), and given the supposed late origin of the name, it may be questioned whether any of what is said about its earlier royal history can be accepted.

Faritius's role in the rebuilding of the church is referred to elsewhere in the chronicle. The summary of his achievements in the early text of the chronicle mentions that he increased the 'sanctuarium oratorii' and rebuilt the conventual buildings (Stevenson, ii. 45; Hudson, ii. 66, § 55). In the early thirteenth century copy of the chronicle, additions about Faritius's achievements refer to his laying the foundations of the *cenobium* (presumably the conventual buildings), but it is also said there that he rebuilt the nave with its two western towers (Stevenson, ii. 146, 150; Hudson, ii. 332, 338). The last reference says that timber was brought from Wales, with six waggons each drawn by twelve oxen making a six- or seven-week journey through Shrewsbury into Wales. The spoils from the king's house at Andersey in 1101 did not long sustain Faritius's building-programme.

## 00 Writ-charter of Queen Matilda giving the island of Andersey and the remains of the king's houses there to the church of Abingdon. May 1101 × September 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 145v ('De insula Andresia') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 132v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 43v (no. 57) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 51–2 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 76 (§ 57) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 39; *Regesta* 567.

Confidentiam deinde bonitatis dei animo abbas captans, iteratis reginam precibus sollicitat, quatinus ad reliquam operis sancte Marie constructuram siquid necessarium in insula relictum fuerat, scilicet lapides et fustes, ipsa permittente, assumere ualeret. Que non solum

petitum permisit, uerum regis inde auctoritatem et fauorem suo interpellatu addidit, ita ut non tantum lapidum et fustium, sed et ipsius insule dominio abbatia Abbendonensis perpetuo frueretur. Quanti autem de hoc emolumentum monasterii contigerit, hinc pensetur, cum ii, qui insulam adipisci pridem cupuerant, aut defensionis obstaculum ibi instituere, aut personas religionis primi siue secundi sexus intromittere, disponebant. Et hec quidem fama per ora multorum tunc spargebatur. Dein fraterno uideatur intuitu quantum hec congregatio his debeat esse obnoxia, quorum talia patrociniis annihilata fuere molimina.

Predictarum uero rerum concessionis ad comitatum Berchescire huiusmodi descriptum extitit.

Mathildis regina Anglorum Hugoni de Bochelanda et omnibus fidelibus suis de Berchescira francis et anglis salutem. Sciatis me dedisse Faritio abbati Abbendonie domos et omnia edificia de insula sancte Marie<sup>a</sup> (*sic*) ad reficiendum monasterium ipsius sancte Marie et ipsam insulam predicto monasterio in perpetuum reddidisse. Et hoc totum dominus meus rex Henricus mihi predictoque abbati meipsa interueniente concessit. T(estibus) Rogero cancell(ario) et Grimaldo medico.

<sup>a</sup> sancte Marie BC altered in a later hand to sancti Andree B, which would be a more correct reading; the wording in the next line ipsius sancte Marie suggests that the draftsman of the charter wrote sancte Marie

*After this the abbot was more confident at heart in the providence of God and he solicited the queen with repeated requests that he might be able, with her consent, to take whatever remained in the island, namely building-stone and timber, that was necessary for building-work still to carry out on the fabric of St Mary's church. Not only did she accede to his request but through her intervention she added the support and approval of the king, so that Abingdon abbey might have the use not only of building-stone and timber but of the lordship of the island itself for ever. The benefit that came to the monastery from this may be measured from the fact that those who had first desired to obtain the island were intending either to set up a fortification there or to introduce religious persons, whether men or women, a story that was rumoured on the lips of many at that time. Brethren hereafter should understand how much this community ought to be obedient to those by whose help such contrivances were brought to nothing.*

*And the grant of the foresaid property exists in writing addressed to the county of Berkshire in this form:*

*Matilda queen of the English to Hugh of Buckland and all her sworn men of Berkshire French and English greeting. Know that I have given to Faritius abbot of Abingdon the houses and all the buildings of the island of St Mary (sic) to rebuild the monastery of the same St Mary and have restored the island to the foresaid monastery for ever. And by my intercession my lord King Henry has granted all this to me and to the foresaid abbot. Witness Roger the chancellor and Grimaldus the physician.*

DATE: While Roger was chancellor, from perhaps as early as Easter 1101 to Michaelmas 1102. Shortly after the preceding act and around the same time as the following act.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Berkshire. It is unusual but not unparalleled for the queen to address the king's *fideles* as if they were her own men.

WITNESS: Roger the chancellor, whose witness probably indicates that the king was present; Grimaldus, the king's physician, a close colleague and friend of Faritius, witnessed no fewer than eleven acts for Abingdon during Faritius's time (and one each for six other beneficiaries), strong evidence for the role of personal connexions in negotiating these transactions.

PLACE: No place-date but perhaps Windsor, the same as the next document.

CONTEXT: See note on 000 above, *Regesta* 565.

## 00 Writ-charter giving the island of Andersey and the remains of the king's houses there to the church of Abingdon. May 1101 × September 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 145v ('De insula Andresia') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 132v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 33r ('De insula sancti Andree', no. x, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 174 (now fol. 111r) [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 43v (no. 58) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 84r (abstract) [from C]; BL MS Harley 5805 (heraldic collection, datable 1631 × 1650, perhaps Henry Lily, c. 1589–1638), p. 361 (now fol. 130r) ('ex Abindonensi registro fol. 11 tempore Henrici 1', i.e. from part ii as marked in the running-heads of D; omits tenor) [from D, raising the question of where the Lyell cartulary was at the time].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 52 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 54 (L79) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 76–8 (§ 57) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 41; *Regesta* 550.

Henricus rex Angl(orum)<sup>a</sup> Hug(oni) <sup>b</sup>de Bochel(anda)<sup>b</sup>  
uic(ecomiti) de Berchescira et omnibus baronibus et fidelibus  
suis francis et anglis de eadem scira salutem. Sciatis me  
dedisse sancte Marie de Abbendona et Faritio abbati capellam

sancti Andree de insula et omnes domos eiusdem insule, scilicet plumbum lapides et ligna et quicquid edificii<sup>c</sup> habetur in eadem insula, ad faciendum opus ecclesie sancte Marie eiusdem uille. Et ipsam insulam reddidi sancte Marie et monachis perpetuo habendam in suo dominio. T(estibus) Mathilde regina uxore mea et Rogero cancell(ario) et Herberto camerario et <N>igello<sup>d</sup> de Oilleio et <V>rsone<sup>e</sup> de Abetot et Radulfo Basset. Apud Windresoras.

<sup>a</sup> episcopo Saresbir' et add. D

<sup>b</sup> om. D

<sup>c</sup> edificium D

<sup>d</sup> coloured initial missing B; N supplied C

<sup>e</sup> coloured initial A BC

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland sheriff of Berkshire and all his barons and sworn men French and English of the same shire greeting. Know that I have given to St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius the chapel of St Andrew of the Isle and all the houses of the same isle, namely the lead, stones, timbers, and whatever there is of building material in the isle, to the work of building St Mary's church of the same vill. And the island itself I have restored to St Mary and the monks to have for ever in their demesne. Witness Matilda the queen my wife and Roger the chancellor and Herbert the chamberlain and Nigel d'Oilly and Urse d'Abetot and Ralf Basset. At Windsor.*

DATE: While Roger was chancellor, from perhaps as early as Easter 1101 to Michaelmas 1102 and around the same time as the two preceding acts. The editors of *Regesta* noted that 'the place and witnesses are consistent with a date of 3 September 1101' (though neither are strongly indicative), and following a hint in 000, *Regesta* 567 they made this the first of the three acts relating to the island of Andersey, dating 00, 00, *Regesta* 565, 567, to September 1101 × February 1102.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Berkshire. The inclusion of the bishop in D must be an erroneous addition rather than an omission on the part of BC: The only bishop of Salisbury in King Henry's reign was Roger, who witnesses here as chancellor, so he has not yet been nominated bishop; the see is still vacant after the death of Bishop Osmund in 1099. In any case to address a bishop by title without his own initial would be incorrect at this early date.

WITNESS: Queen Matilda; Roger as chancellor; Herbert the chamberlain; Nigel d'Oilly; Urse d'Abetot; Ralf Basset. Two of these witnesses had local connexions with Abingdon abbey: Nigel d'Oilly in Oxfordshire (see 000, *Regesta* 693; Stevenson, ii. 67–8; Hudson, ii. 100, § 76); Ralf Basset witnessed a quitclaim to the abbey in 1114 as 'neighbour' of the abbey (see 000, *Regesta* 701; Stevenson, ii. 105; Hudson, ii. 152–4, § 151).

PLACE: Windsor.

CONTEXT: In the chronicle this act follows straight on from the queen's, 000, *Regesta* 567. See note on 000 above, *Regesta* 565.

00 Writ ordering the sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire to order the men of their shires to determine the right in three virgates of land disputed between the abbey and Rualoc of Avranches. April 1101 × September 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v ('De I uirgata apud Estuna') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 48v (no. 80) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 84–5 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 74 [from Stevenson]; G. B. Adams and H. M. Stephens, *Select Documents of English Constitutional History* (New York, NY, 1901), 7 (in English) [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 485 (no. 138) ('justicies') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 124 (§ 111) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 48; *Regesta* 528.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Willelmo<sup>a</sup> uicecomiti de Oxeneford salutem. Precipite ex mei parte hominibus uestrorum uicecomitatum ut ipsi sicut me diligunt ueritatem omnino dicant de tribus uirgatis terre quas Rualuc(us) de Abrincis reclamant. Et si pertinent ad manerium quod ego ei dedi de Estantona, habeat ipse. Sin autem, habeat ipsa abbatia de Abbendona. T(este) <R>ogero<sup>a</sup> cancell(ario). Per <P>agen<sup>a</sup> Basset. Apud Grenteburgh.

<sup>a</sup> Willelmo B J W. C

<sup>b</sup> coloured initials missing B; R supplied but not P in C

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and William sheriff of Oxford greeting. Command on my behalf the men of your shrievalties that, as they love me, they shall speak the truth, entirely, in the case of three virgates of land which Rualoc of Avranches claims. And if they pertain to the manor of Stanton [Harcourt], which I gave to him, he shall have them. But otherwise the abbey of Abingdon shall have them. Witness Roger the chancellor. By Pain Basset. At Cambridge.*

DATE: While Roger was chancellor, from about Easter 1101 until his nomination as bishop of Salisbury at Michaelmas 1102.

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland and William of Oxford, sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Roger, as chancellor. The intermediary Pain Basset appears only here in King Henry's acts.

PLACE: Cambridge. Two acts are place-dated at Cambridge in this period; the other is 000, *Regesta* 528a for Ramsey abbey, witnessed by Faritus's friend Grimaldus. At some eighty-three miles from Abingdon, one must wonder why Faritus sent Pain Basset so far to see the king in a case over only three virgates: would this business not

have waited until the king was more accessible? The answer may be that Rualloc has initiated a suit, and the abbey must organize its defence.

CONTEXT: See note on 000, *Regesta* 527.

00 Writ-charter confirming the gift by William de Curci, steward of the king, to the church of Abingdon of the church of Nuneham [Courtenay] (Oxon). St Luke's day, 18 October 1101 × 1105, perhaps 18 October 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 146r ('Confirmatio regis Henrici') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 133r [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38v ('De donacione ecclesie de Niwenham', no. xliij, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 57r [E].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald*, 1543/4–1588), fol. 13v [from C]; Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 174 (fol. 111r) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 84r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 54 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 69–70 (L112, C111–12) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 80 (§ 60) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 125; *Regesta* 699.

Willelmus de Curceio, regis dapifer, hunc plurimo excolere abbatem solebat amore. Huius uilla erat Niweham, transfluuium Tamesim sita, uille uero que Culeham dicitur contermina, de qua in gestis abbatis Adelelmi fit mentio. Idem itaque regis dapifer eiusdem sue possessionis ecclesiam, cum terra, id est una hida, et decimis siue cyrcsceattis, reliquisque suis consuetudinibus, abbati Faritio et monachis in Abbendonia perpetuo dono concessit, preter duas portiones sue proprie decime ex eadem uilla; huius autem rei donationem cum sua coniuge altari sancte Marie imposuit, atque coram his testibus confirmauit, Serlone episcopo de Sais, Nigello abbate de Bertona, et multis aliis.

Non multo post uero tempore, predictus abbas cum eodem Willelmo de duabus suprascriptis portionibus decime sermonem habuit, et de quadam piscatione que Anglice nominatur Sotiswere, quatinus et ista cum predicta donatione ecclesie sancte Marie et sibi condonaret. De his quoque rebus dum abbas se intromitteret, apud eundem uirum per uiginti marcas argenti finem fecit, ita ut ipse concessum cum litteris sigillatis regis prefati de omnibus iam dictis donationibus requireret, et requisitum Abbendoniam deferret, et die festiuitatis Romani Rothomagi archiepiscopi, coram omni conuentu monachorum et presentia horum

laicorum, super altare sancte Marie offerret, Willelmi regis camerarii, Wini, et multorum aliorum. Et misit ipse Willelmus dapiferum suum Goisfredum et saisauit inde ecclesiam et abbatem per Willelmum cellararium. Piscationi predictae adiacent septemdecim acre telluris. Que tali ipse abbas decretionem monasterii officinis locauit: capellam predictae uille cum rebus suis uniuersis edituo, duas uero decime domini partes elemosinario, piscariam cellarario impertire curauit.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rotberto episcopo Lincolie et Willelmo uic(ecomiti) de Oxenef(ord)<sup>a</sup> et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Oxenefordscira salutem. Sciatis quod concedo sancte Marie de Abbendona [et monachis eiusdem loci perpetuo habendam]<sup>b</sup> ecclesiam de Niweham et terram et decimam totam ipsius manerii, et alia que ad ipsam ecclesiam pertinent, et piscariam cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus, sicut Willelmus de Curci dapifer meus eis dedit et concessit. T(estibus) Rannulfo episcopo Dunelmensi et Rogero Bigod. Per Goisfridum Peccatum. Apud Corneb(er)iam in die sancti Luce euuangeliste.

<sup>a</sup> Oxenefortsira D

<sup>b</sup> interpolated BC ] om. DE, *rectius*

*Carta Willelmi iunioris de Curci de ecclesia de Niweham.*

Ego Willelmus de Curceo reddo deo, et sancte Marie, et ecclesie Abbendonie, elemosinam quam pater meus dedit predictae ecclesie, scilicet ecclesiam de Niweham, et unam hidam terre, et omnem decimam de dominio meo et totius uille, et unam piscariam, cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus, et pasturam CCC ouium et octo bouum et decem uaccarum in mea dominica pastura, et unum pratum quod uocatur Cumed, unde ego accreui elemosinam patris mei, consilio et uoluntate fratris mei Roberti et militum meorum. Et uolo ut ecclesia predicta teneat ista in pace et quiete et libere et honorifice et ut nullus eam inde inquietet. Qui uero hanc redditionem uel donationem actu uel consilio uiolauerit, maledictionem dei et eiusdem genitricis Marie sustineat. Huic autem redditioni uel donationi interfuerunt testes Robertus de Curceo, Philippus dapifer, Willelmus de Estuna, Hugo Walensis, Berengerius, Robertus presbiter, Godefridus presbiter, Willelmus nepos, Rogerius de Lillebona, Ricardus filius Fulconis, Mainardus de Niweham.

*William de Curci, a steward of the king, used to be devoted to this abbot with very great love. His vill was Nuneham, located across the river Thames, and it shared a boundary with Culham, about which mention was made in our account of Abbot Adelelm. This steward of the king granted as a gift for ever to Abbot Faritius and the monks of Abingdon the church of Nuneham together with land, that is one hide, and the tithes or churchscot and his other customs except two thirds of his own tithe from the vill. He and his wife placed the gift of this property on the altar of St Mary and confirmed it in the presence of these witnesses, Serlo bishop of Sées, Nigel abbot of Burton, and many others. Not long afterwards the foresaid abbot and the same William discussed the two thirds of tithe mentioned above and also a fishery called in English Sotiswere, to the end that he should give these along with the previous gift to St Mary and the abbot. While the abbot involved himself in these matters, he also made an agreement with William in the sum of 20 marks of silver so that he should obtain approval together with the king's sealed letters for all the said gifts and should bring what he obtained to Abingdon and should offer it on the altar of St Mary on the feast of St Romanus archbishop of Rouen in the presence of the whole convent and of the these laymen, William the king's chancellor, Oin, and many others. And the same William sent his own steward Geoffrey and delivered seisin of this property to William the cellarer on behalf of the church and the abbot. Seventeen acres of land belong to the fishery. The abbot allocated these properties wisely: he took care to share out the chapel of Nuneham and all that belonged to it to the sacrist, the two thirds of the demesne tithes to the almoner, and the fishery to the cellarer.*

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and William sheriff of Oxford and all his barons French and English of Oxfordshire. Know that I grant to St Mary of Abingdon and [the monks of the same place to have for ever] the church of Nuneham and its land and all the tithe of that manor and other things that pertain to the church and the fishery with everything pertaining to it, just as William de Curci my steward gave and granted to them. Witness Ranulf bishop of Durham and Roger Bigod. By Geoffrey Peche. At Cornbury on the feast of St Luke the evangelist.*

*The charter of William de Curci the younger concerning the church of Nuneham. I William de Curci restore to God and St Mary and to the church of Abingdon the alms which my father gave to the foresaid church, namely the church of Nuneham with one hide of land, and all the tithe of my demesne and of the whole vill, and a fishery together with all that pertains to it, and the right to graze three hundred sheep and eight oxen and ten cows in my demesne pasture, and a meadow called Cow Mead, whereby I have increased the alms of my father with the counsel and consent of my brother Robert and my knights. And I will that the foresaid church shall hold these things in peace and quietly and freely and honourably and that no one shall disturb it therein. If anyone shall violate this renewal or gift by action or by counsel, he shall incur the curse of God and his mother Mary. There were present as witnesses at this renewal and gift Robert de Curci, Philip the steward, William of Easton, Hugh the Welshman, Berengar, Robert the priest, Godfrey the priest, William Nephew, Roger of Lilbourne, Richard fitz Fulk, Mainard of Nuneham.*

DATE: After the return of Ranulf, bishop of Durham, September 1101; before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107, and therefore no later than the last St Luke's day when the king was in England while Roger Bigod was alive, 18 October 1105.

Farrer plausibly inferred from the place-date and witnesses that this was one of five acts for Abingdon dated at Cornbury at around the same time (see Witness); he arrived at a date-range 1105 × 1106 for the group, dating 000, *Regesta* 701 to 1105 × 1107 and 000, *Regesta* 702 to 1100 × 1106. The king was in Normandy on St Luke's day, 18 October, in both 1104 and 1106, so he proposed Wednesday, 18 October 1105. This may be possible, but during October to November 1105, King Henry went north as far as Pontefract and York, a journey not provided for in Farrer's itinerary. The *terminus a quo* for 000, *Regesta* 701, however, is not apparent; indeed, the editors of *Regesta* dated the same act 1101 × 1105. The year 1103 is perhaps unlikely, since 18 October fell on a Sunday in that year. October 1101 is excluded by the address of *Regesta* 703 to Bishop Roger of Salisbury. If the group could be securely associated with the witness list from a corrupt Gloucester act (000, *Regesta* 706), which includes four names present at Cornbury, that source would add the name of Waldric as chancellor, who succeeded Roger at Michaelmas 1102. With no certain means of excluding October 1102, this appears the most plausible year. Two names of those present might help to determine the year, if we were better informed of their movements: Bishop Ranulf of Durham was more often in Normandy than in England in this period, and David, the queen's brother, was not constantly at court.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Ranulf, bishop of Durham; Roger Bigod. Of the group of five acts, Ranulf and Roger also witnessed 000, 000, *Regesta* 701, 703. William de Curci was present as donor and also witnessed 000, 000, *Regesta* 700, 702. Geoffrey Peche must also have been present (and witnessed 000, *Regesta* 693), though one may wonder what his role was, if all parties were present in person. A table allows an overview of the five acts. The numbers represent precedence in the witness lists.

Name	700	702	699	701	703
Queen Matilda	1	1			
Bishop Robert of Lincoln				1	1
Bishop Ranulf of Durham			1	2	2
Eudo Dapifer	2	2			
William de Curci, Dapifer	3	3	donor		
Urse d'Abetot	4	4			
Robert Malet	5	5			
Aubrey de Vere	6				
Roger Bigod			2	3	3
David the queen's brother				4	5
Nigel d'Oilli		6		5	4
Roger d'Oilli				6	6
William of Houghton				7	9
Croc the huntsman				8	8
Geoffrey Ridel					7
Geoffrey Peche			per		

There is a grouping of witnesses between *Regesta* 699, 701 and 703, and similarly between *Regesta* 700 and 702; William de Curci (*Regesta* 699, 700, 702), Nigel d'Oilly (*Regesta* 693, 701, 702, 703), and Aubrey de Vere (*Regesta* 702), are donors whose gifts to Abingdon confirmed at this time; William and Nigel bind the groupings together.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon, a hunting-lodge favoured in the early years of the reign, before the king began to stay regularly at Woodstock.

CONTEXT: William de Curci was a frequent witness to acts for Abingdon abbey as well as a benefactor. He is presumably the son of Richard de Curci who held Nuneham, Sarsden, and Foscot in Oxfordshire in 1086, a total of 37 hides worth £39 10s 0d (*DB*, i. 159r; § 32). The king's confirmation straightforwardly confirms William's gift of the church with its glebe, the tithes of the whole manor and whatever else pertains to the church, and the fishery with its appurtenances. The names of witnesses mentioned in the narrative and the date of the feast of St Romanus (23 October) are likely to have come from a document, and since two sets of witnesses are referred to, it appears that the chronicler had two deeds, which no doubt explains why he describes the process as one of an initial gift followed by further gifts. The witnesses to the first deed include Serlo, bishop of Sées (1091–1123), and Nigel, abbot of Burton (1094–1114), neither of them regular visitors at court, leaving one to wonder in what context the deed was made. The witnesses to the second deed are more readily explained: whichever William the chamberlain was involved, he would be known to William de Curci as a steward, and Wini is most likely Oin, a baron of the abbot's honour. It would be of considerable interest to know what trust could be put in the statement that the abbot arranged with William de Curci to obtain the king's confirmation, handing over twenty marks for this purpose; it seems possible that this was mentioned in the second of William's deeds. It has always been assumed that Faritius himself was continually seeking the king's confirmation, but if King Henry observed the custom of confirming a gift only in the presence of the donor, William's presence was more important than the abbot's.

The king's charter was renewed by King Stephen during a siege at Wallingford, most likely in 1139, whose act refers to the deed of William de Curci the younger (*Ste*/11; *Stevenson*, ii. 179–80; *Hudson*, ii. 340–42, § 260b). King Henry's act and the deed both served as precedents for a confirmation by Henry II (*H2*/23; *Lambrick & Slade*, i. 74–5, L121), which differentiates the gift of the elder William de Curci, confirmed by Henry I, and its augmented renewal by William the younger, whose deed is included here and in the cartulary (*Lambrick & Slade*, ii. 131–2, C112). The same act also confirmed Aubrey de Vere's gift of the church of Kensington (00, *Regesta* 702; *Stevenson*, ii. 55–6; *Hudson*, ii. 82–4, §§ 62–3), which follows immediately in the chronicle. The use of these documents to obtain Henry II's confirmation, datable to 1159 × 1164, may have influenced the chronicler's decision to insert the deed of William de Curci the younger but not those of his father.

00 Writ-charter confirming to the monks of Abingdon the gift by Nigel d'Oilly of the land that Algar holds at Abbefield. November 1100 × September 1106, perhaps October 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150r ('Carta Nigelli de Oili de terra Abbefeld', 'Littere regis de eadem terra Abbefeld') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 138r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38r ('De quadam terra in Abbefeld', no. xl, omits witnesses) [D], fol. 86r (Nigel's deed).

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 74–5 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 68–9 (L109), 165 (L237, Nigel's deed) (English abstracts) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 110 (§ 86) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 126; *Regesta* 700.

Notum sit omnibus Christi amatoribus, quod ego Nigellus de Oilli reddidi deo et sancte Marie in Abbendonensi ecclesia terram de Abbefeldam quam Algarus tenebat quietam ab omni querela successorum meorum perpetuo in dominio habendam, pro animabus fratrum meorum et meorum remissione peccatorum, et salute uxoris mee Agnetis et meorum filiorum. Et hoc ego feci in domo mea apud Stuntesfeldam in presentia abbatis Faritii in cuius manu hanc terram reddidi, et in presentia uxoris mee et Rotberti filii mei, quorum rogatu et consensu hoc peregi, et in presentia W. capellani mei, et Manaserii Arsi, et Rad(ulfi) Basset, et Rogeri de Casneto et Gilleberti Basset et Rogeri Radulfi filii et Luuelli de Braio, quorum testimonio hanc redditionem firmaui. Quicumque autem hoc mutare uoluerit, non habeat partem in regno Christi et dei. Amen.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um R(ober)to episcopo Linc(ol)ie et W(illel)mo uic(ec)omiti de Oxenef(ord) et baronibus suis francis et anglis de Oxenefordscira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse sancte Marie in Abbendonensi ecclesia ad usum monachorum terram quam Algarus tenet in uilla de Abbefeld sicut Nigellus de Oilli reddidit predicte ecclesie et auctorizauit. T(est)ibus Mathild(e) regina et Eudone dapifero et Willelmo de Curci et Vrsone de Abetot et Roberto Malet et Albrico de Ver. Apud Corneb(er)iam.

*Be it known to all who love Christ that I Nigel d'Oilly have restored to God and St Mary in the church of Abingdon the land which Algar used to hold quit of all claim by my successors to have in demesne for ever for the souls of my brothers and the remission of my sins and the salvation of my wife Agnes and my children. I did this in my house at Stonesfield in the presence of Abbot Faritius in whose hand I have restored this land and in the presence of my wife and of Robert my son, by whose request and consent I have done this, and in the presence of W. my chaplain and Manasser Arsic*

*and Ralf Basset and Roger de Chesney and Gilbert Basset and Roger fitz Ralf and Lovell of Bray, by whose witness I have confirmed this restoration. Whoever would alter this shall have no share in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Amen.*

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and William sheriff of Oxford and his barons French and English of Oxfordshire greeting. Know that I have granted to St Mary in the church of Abingdon to the use of the monks the land that Algar holds in the vill of Abbeffield just as Nigel d'Oilly restored it to the foresaid church and consented. Witness Queen Matilda and Eudo Dapifer and William de Curci and Urse d'Abetot and Robert Malet and Aubrey de Vere. At Cornbury.*

DATE: Before the death of Urse d'Abetot, 1108, and before Robert Malet left the king's court, probably August–September 1106. See note on 000, *Regesta* 674. Perhaps the same occasion as 000, *Regesta* 699. On the basis of the witnesses to Nigel d'Oilly's deed, the date may be after Roger fitz Ralf succeeded to the property of his father-in-law Drogo, but the date of that is uncertain (see note on 000, *Regesta* 693).

ADDRESS: Shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Queen Matilda; Eudo Dapifer; William de Curci, who was party to another transaction on the same occasion (000, *Regesta* 699); Urse d'Abetot; Robert Malet; and Aubrey de Vere the elder.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon.

CONTEXT: The land at Abbeffield is not mentioned in Domesday Book. It was identified by A. Morley Davies, 'Abbeffield and Ackhamstead: two lost places', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 15 (1947–52), 166–71, as a detached portion of Lewknor parish lying in Stokenchurch (Bucks). It appears to be more complicated than that (VCH *Oxon*, viii. 104). There was one hide in Lewknor held by Robert d'Oilly in 1086, whose tenant was Peter of Wheatfield (*DB*, i. 158r; § 28. 11), which, it is suggested in the VCH, might be the land in question here. Since Nigel restored this land to the abbey, however, it seems more likely that it was a part of the abbey's own estate in Lewknor, 17 hides in 1086 (*DB*, i. 156v; § 9. 1), once tenanted by Algar but taken from the abbey by Robert or Nigel d'Oilly.

Nigel d'Oilly's own deed (§ 85, presumably datable a little before the king's confirmaion) may be compared with another of his deeds in § 76 (see 000, *Regesta* 693). His house at Stonesfield (Oxon) was in a manor held in 1086 by one Aelfric as tenant of Robert of Stafford; Nigel's brother Robert d'Oilly was also a tenant of Robert of Stafford, and it appears that Stonesfield had been added to the d'Oilly estate. It remained in the hands of the d'Oillys until Henry d'Oilly exchanged it with King Henry II, so that Stonesfield could be added to the estate of Woodstock (VCH *Oxon*, xi. 185).

00 Writ-charter granting to the church of Abingdon the land of Walter *fossatarius* at Dumbleton (Glos). September 1101 × September 1107, perhaps October 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 155r ('De hida quam Walterus fossatarius tenebat. Regis littere de eadem terra ita se habent') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 144v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 87v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 105 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 154 (§ 152) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 127; *Regesta* 701.

Anno XIII Henrici regis, Walterius fossatarius cum coniuge sua dimisit et clamavit quietam dimidiam hidam apud uillam Dumeltuna in manu Faritii abbatis, tam a se quam ab omnibus suis heredibus. Forisfecerat enim eam multis in causis, et ideo se purgare non ualens per singula, consilio sapientum quod tenebat ecclesie et abbati predicto, ut dictum est, dimisit, et abbas dedit ei XXX solidos et III<sup>or</sup> somas segetum pro hac re. Et hoc factum est coram his testibus, Grimmundo abbate Wincelcumb'; de uicinis Abbendone, Radulfo Basset, Ricardo de Grai; de hominibus abbatis Faritii, Rainbaldo, Radulfo camerario.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Samsoni episcopo Wigornensi et Waltero uicec(omiti) de Gloec' et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Gloec(ester) scira salutem. Sciatis quod concedo sancte Marie de Abbendona et Faritio abbati et monachis perpetuo habendam terram Walterii fossatarii quam habet in uilla Dumeltuna. T(estibus) Rotberto episcopo Linc(oliensi) et Rannulfo episcopo Dunelmensi et Rogero Bigod et David fratre regine et Nigello de Oili et Rogero de Oili et Willelmo de Hoctuna et <C>roco<sup>a</sup> uenatore. Apud Corneb(er)iam.

<sup>a</sup>Droco, with added coloured initial D BC

*In the fourteenth year of King Henry Walter fossatarius, together with his wife, demised and quitclaimed, for himself and all his heirs, into the hand of Abbot Faritius half a hide in Dumbleton. He had forfeited the land as a result of many pleas, and therefore, being unable to clear himself on many points, by the counsel of the wise he demised what he held to the church and to the foresaid abbot, as already mentioned, and the abbot gave him 30s. and four seams of wheat for this property. This was done in the presence of witnesses, Girmund abbot of Winchcombe; from the neighbours of Abingdon Ralf Basset, Richard de Grey; from the men of Abbot Faritius, Raimbald and Ralf the chamberlain.*

*Henry king of the English to Samson bishop of Worcester and Walter sheriff of Gloucester and all his barons French and English of Gloucestershire greeting. Know that I grant to St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and the monks to have for ever the land of Walter fossatarius which he has in Dumbleton. Witness Robert bishop*

*of Lincoln and Ranulf bishop of Durham and Roger Bigod and David the queen's brother and Nigel d'Oilly and Roger d'Oilly and William of Houghton and Croc the huntsman. At Cornbury.*

DATE: After the return of Ranulf, bishop of Durham, September 1101; before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107. Farrer proposed a date-range 1105 × 1107 for this document, and by that means constrained the dating of a group of five acts for Abingdon abbey; see note on 000, *Regesta* 699. The editors of *Regesta* could not follow his reasons, and they proposed a date-range 1101 × 1105, which is no more defensible. See Context.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Gloucestershire.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln; Ranulf, bishop of Durham; Roger Bigod; David, brother of Queen Matilda; Nigel d'Oilly; Roger d'Oilly; William of Houghton; Croc the huntsman.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon. See note on 00, *Regesta* 699.

CONTEXT: The writ-charter predates by some years date given in the story that serves to introduce it and to explain the circumstances.

Dumbleton (Glos) was a demesne manor (though the chronicle, § 44, tells a story of its temporary alienation by Abbot Rainald); it had been given by Ælfric, archbishop of Canterbury 995–1005, a monk of Abingdon. The manor was assessed as 7½ hides in 1086 (*DB*, i. 166r; § 13. 1). In addition, the church of Abingdon acquired two further parcels of land at Dumbleton. By this writ-charter the king 'grants' to the church of Abingdon half a hide of land held by Walter *fossatarius*. The use of *concedo* alone as the dispositive verb is strictly correct, for the king is not the giver but consents to Walter's conveyance. The land in question can be identified with the half hide held in 1086 by Ralf, perhaps father of Walter, as a tenant of Durand, sheriff of Gloucester (*DB*, i. 168v; § 53. 12); this was in Littleton, a part of Dumbleton. Here there was also one hide held by William Guizenboded in 1086 (*DB*, i. 167v; § 34. 13), which he gave to the church of Abingdon in 1107 or 1108 with the consent of Count Robert of Meulan (00, *Regesta* 893), and which was leased to Ralf, son of Walter *fossatarius*, who sold his interest to Abbot Faritius during the thirteenth year of Henry I's reign (Stevenson, ii. 104; *English Lawsuits*, 160, no. 192; Hudson, ii. 152, § 150). The only remaining parcel of land in Dumbleton was one hide in Littleton, held by William Froisselew in 1086 (*DB*, i. 167v; § 36. 3), whose successor, perhaps his son, witnessed the deed of Count Robert as Roger Frangelupum. This seems to have escaped the consolidation of the abbey's holding. An unanswered question in relation to this writ-charter is how the half hide passed from the fee of Durand of Gloucester, but perhaps the answer lies in the many pleas mentioned but not reported.

- 00 Writ-charter confirming the gift by Aubrey de Vere to the church of Abingdon of the church of Kensington (Middx) and land nearby. November 1100 × September 1107, perhaps October 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES FROM ABINGDON: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 146v ('Carta regis de ecclesia de Kunsentuna') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 133v [C].

CARTULARY COPY FROM EARLS COLNE: Chelmsford, Essex RO, D/DPr 149 (s. xii/xiii), fols. 3v–4r ('Confirmatio Henrici Regis de ecclesia de Kinsyeton' et aliis possessionibus) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Vespasian B. xv, fols. 59–70 (transcribed by John Joscelin, 1529–1603), fol. 59r (in margin) [from D]; BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 13v [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 84v [from C]; BL MS Add. 5860 (transcribed in 1781 by William Cole, 1714–1782), p. 218 (now fol. 111v) ('Confirmacio Henrici regis de ecclesia de Kinsigetone et aliis possessionibus', no. 3) [from D].

PRINTED: Dugdale, i. 437a [from C], repr. *Monasticon*, iv. 99–100 (nos. ii–iii); Stevenson, ii. 56 [from C]; Fisher, *Ctl. Colne*, 3 (no. 3) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 82–4 (§ 63) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 128; *Regesta* 702.

Gosfredus de Ver, Albrici senioris filius, Albrici iunioris frater, suorum fratrum in nascentia primus, ac ideo in hereditate paterna successor futurus, tam morum quam parentum generositate admodum inclitus, abbatem medendi se gratia ad Faritium contulit; erat enim graui irretitus morbo. Tribus ergo ab abbate ei cura mensibus impensa, ea qua pulsabatur conualuit molestia. Sed quia contra mortem nulla est medecina, alius morbus hunc occupat, cogens decedere uita. Itaque instante temporis ipsius articulo, idem eger ecclesiam sui patrimonii de uilla Kinsuetuna, patre suo Albrico et matre sua Beatrice unacum fratribus suis idem concedentibus, perpetua donatione Abbendonensi monasterio contulit, cum duarum hidarum duodecies XX acris terra disterminata, et insuper unius uirgate portione. Cuius doni auctoritatem regis quoque huiusmodi confirmauit edictum.

<sup>a</sup>H(enricus) rex Angl(orum) M(auritio) Lund(oniensi) episcopo et G(isleberto) abbati Westmon(asterii) et Hugoni de Boch(eland) et omnibus baronibus suis et ministris francis et anglis de Lund(onia) et de Middelsexo salutem<sup>a</sup>. Sciatis me concessisse [in tempore Faritii abbatis]<sup>b</sup> ecclesie sancte Marie in Abbendonia ecclesiam de Chensuetuna et quicquid ad eam pertinet, et terram in ipsa uilla inter ecclesiam, et terram aliam duarum hidarum de XII XX<sup>c</sup> acris, quam Albricus de Ver dedit predicte ecclesie pro anima Goisfredi filii sui defuncti. Et eam ecclesiam cum terra predicta Abbendonensis ecclesia in pace

in perpetuum et quiete teneat. T(estibus) Mathilde regina et Eud(one) dapifero et Willelmo de Curceio et Nigello de Oileio et Vr(sone) de Abet(ot) et Rotberto Malet. Apud Corneb(er)iam.

<sup>a-a</sup> abbreviations follow D; BC have expanded inserted after the date of the charter <sup>b</sup> BCD, but obviously <sup>c</sup> XII XX D ] duodecim XX BC, but correctly duodecies XX in the preceding passage; compare 00 § 15, Regesta 1092, where BC have 'duodenis xx'; while in Henry II's confirmation, we read 'de xxxij acris' (H2/23; Lambrick & Slade, i. 74, L121)

Notandum autem quod in his regiis litteris unius uirgate mentio deest. Quod ideo fit, quia quando eadem descriptio composita fuit, nondum eius collatio impertita, sed non multo post tempore ab eisdem a quibus et superiora repensa, et regia attestazione roborata fuit.

*Geoffrey de Vere, son of the elder Aubrey de Vere and brother of the younger Aubrey, being the eldest of his brothers and therefore future heir to his father's inheritance, a man well known for the gentility of his conduct as much as of his breeding, came to Abbot Faritius for the sake of medical treatment, for he was in the thrall of a serious illness. Care was given to him by the abbot for three months and he recovered from the illness that had stricken him. But there is no medicine against death, and another illness seized him from which he died. And so when his death was imminent, the sick man conferred by gift for ever on the monastery of Abingdon the church of Kensington, part of his inheritance, with the consent of his father Aubrey and his mother Beatrice and his brothers, together with land of two hides measured as twelve score acres, and also a share amounting to one virgate. A royal proclamation in these words confirmed the authority of this gift.*

*Henry king of the English to Maurice bishop of London and Gilbert abbot of Westminster and Hugh of Buckland and all his barons and officials French and English of London and Middlesex greeting. Know that I have granted [in Abbot Faritius's time] to the church of St Mary in Abingdon the church of Kensington and whatever pertains to it, and the land within the vill that is counted with the church, and other land of two hides of twelve score acres, which Aubrey de Vere gave to the foresaid church for the soul of Geoffrey his dead son. And the foresaid church of Abingdon shall hold that church with the foresaid land in peace and forever and quietly. Witness Queen Matilda and Eudo Dapifer and William de Curci and Nigel d'Oilly and Urse d'Abetot and Robert Malet. At Cornbury.*

*It should be noted that there is no mention in the king's letters of the one virgate. This is because that had not yet been conveyed, but not long afterwards it was repaid by those same as the above and confirmed by the king's attestation.*

DATE: Before the death of Maurice, bishop of London, 26 September 1107, and before Robert Malet left the king's court, probably August–September 1106. Perhaps the same occasion as 000, *Regesta* 699.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Middlesex and London. The inclusion in the address clause of Gilbert Crispin, abbot of Westminster, is unique.

WITNESS: Queen Matilda; Eudo Dapifer; William de Curci and Nigel d'Oilly, both men with strong local connexions with Abingdon; Urse d'Abetot; Robert Malet.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon.

CONTEXT: Kensington, Middx, was held as ten hides by Aubrey de Vere the elder in 1086 (*DB*, i. 130v; § 21. 1), though at that date he held of Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances; he presumably retained this estate after the bishop's death. The priest at Kensington in 1086 held half a virgate. Aubrey de Vere went on to endow a priory at Earls Colne in Essex as a dependency of Abingdon (000, *Regesta* 981). In 1148, Abbot Ingulf with the consent of Aubrey III de Vere, earl of Oxford, transferred the church of Kensington to support the priory at Earls Colne.

It is clear from the confirmation that Geoffrey de Vere was dead and the donor was his father Aubrey, but the narrative suggests that it was Geoffrey who made the gift in his illness, before his death, and with his father's consent. Yes the narrator's source appears to be the royal *edictum* to which he refers, not a lost deed in Geoffrey's name. This is surely a story made up by the chronicler in an attempt to show how Faritius's medical skills brought rewards to the abbey, overlooking the fact that the gift was made by the father for the soul of his dead son after the treatment had failed.

As one of several gifts to Abingdon, made by men close to the king and all confirmed at Cornbury, it seems possible that the decision to make the gift may have happened there. This was not necessarily directly after Geoffrey's death. This gift and another at Cornbury (000, *Regesta* 699) were later confirmed together by Henry II (see below); why they should be associated more than fifty years after the event is not apparent, but it can hardly reflect an exact archival memory.

There is a difficulty in the Latin. The manuscript-reading 'inter ecclesiam' in D as well as BC is certain. It is also the reading in Henry II's confirmation (H2/23), 'terram in ipsa uilla inter ecclesiam et terram aliam duarum hidarum', which reflects sight of the original. Hudson translates as 'the land in that village between the church and the other land of two hides'. But *inter* cannot mean 'between' here, for the later general confirmation by Henry I (00 § 15, *Regesta* 1092) clearly has the church *and* two hides of land, and so does the first privilege of Pope Eugenius III (Stevenson, ii. 192; Hudson, ii. 266, § 266). We are not dealing with some land between the church and those two hides, but with the church, some land 'inter ecclesiam', and the two hides of land. I have therefore taken *inter* as equivalent to *intra*, signifying 'land that is part of the church'.

In the sentences of comment following the document the narrator appears to be aware of a fact not derived from this royal act. He refers to another royal confirmation, but there can hardly have been a document specifically to add reference to one virgate of land. The second confirmation mentioned is surely the general confirmation of properties acquired by Abbot Faritius (00 § 15, *Regesta* 1092), where the wording is 'in uilla Chinsuetona ecclesiam et duas hidas de duodenis (*sic*) uiginti acris et unam uirgatam'. The narrator had compared the documents and come up with an explanation for the apparent discrepancy between them. Whether this one virgate is the same as the

land ‘inter ecclesiam’ is an unanswerable question; a virgate is a small glebe, but it was even smaller in 1086.

The act is cited as precedent in a writ of King Stephen (Ste/14; Fisher, *Ctl. Colne*, no. 4), and is also the subject of a confirmation by Henry II (H2/23; Lambrick & Slade, i. 74–5, L121; and more succinctly, H2/11, Lambrick & Slade, ii. 125, C100), which confirms this gift along with William de Curci’s gifts at Nuneham Courtenay (00; *Regesta* 699).

AUTHENTICITY: The reference to ‘in the time of Abbot Faritius’ must be an interpolation by the chronicler. It is surprising, therefore, that it is included in the Earls Colne copy, which would surely not be likely to have copied the chronicle. Should one infer that the words represent annotation on the charter itself, perhaps added by the compiler of the chronicle?

00 Writ-charter granting to the church of Abingdon the wood of Cunnor and Bagley (Berks) with licence to take roe deer. September 1102 × September 1107, perhaps October 1102

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 156v (‘Carta de siluis Bagelea et Cumenora’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 146v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 32v (‘De custodia silue de Comenore’, no. vij, omits witnesses after the first) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: Bodl. MS James 8 (copied by Richard James, 1591–1638), p. 89 (incomplete) [from C].

PRINTED: *Monasticon*, i. 523a (no. xxiv) [‘fol. 154b’, not in Dugdale so seemingly from B without intermediary]; Stevenson, ii. 113–14 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 53 (L76) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 166 (§ 164) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 129; *Regest* .

Siluas de Bachelea et Cumenora iste abbas Faritius a regis forestariorum causationibus funditus quietas, et in eis capreorum uenationem, regio optinuit decreto.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rogero episcopo Salesb(er)ie et Hugoni de Boch(elandia) et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Berchescira salutem. Sciatis quod concedo ecclesie sancte Marie de Abendona et Faritio abbati et monachis perpetuo in custodia eorum habendam siluam de Cumenora et Bagelega. Et omnes capreolos quos ibi inuenire poterint accipiant. Et ceruos et ceruas non accipiant, nisi mea licentia, et ego nemini licentiam dabo ibi uenandi nisi illis. Et omnes

foresfacturas sartorum condono eis. T(estibus) Roberto Linc' episcopo et Rannulfo episcopo Dunelm' et Roger Big(od) et Nigello de Oili et Daudid fratre regine et Rogero de Oili et Gosfr(ido) Ridel et <C>roco<sup>a</sup> uenatore et W(illelmo) de Hoctona. Apud Corneb(er)iam.

<sup>a</sup>Droco, with added coloured initial D BC

*Abbot Faritius obtained the woods of Bagley and Cumnor and the right to hunt roe deer in them, entirely free from the objections of the king's foresters, by royal charter.*

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Hugh of Buckland and all barons French and English of Berkshire greeting. Know that I grant to the church of St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and the monks to have for ever in their keeping the wood of Cumnor and Bagley. And they may take all the roe deer that they can find. And they shall not take the red deer stags nor hinds, except by my licence, and I shall give licence of hunting there to no one except them. And I pardon them of all forfeits resulting from assarts. Witness Robert bishop of Lincoln and Ranulf bishop of Durham and Roger Bigod and Nigel d'Oilly and David the queen's brother and Roger d'Oilly and Geoffrey Ridel and Croc the huntsman and William of Houghton. At Cornbury.*

DATE: After the nomination of Roger as bishop of Salisbury, September 1102; before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107. Farrer dates it internally to 1105 × 1107, the editors of *Regesta* to 1100 × 1105; both assign it to the same occasion as the previous acts.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Berkshire.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln; Ranulf Flambard, bishop of Durham; Roger Bigod; Nigel d'Oilly; David of Scotland, the queen's brother; Roger d'Oilly; Geoffrey Ridel; Croc the huntsman, representing the forest establishment; William of Houghton, chamberlain.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon.

CONTEXT: The woods of Cumnor and Bagley presumably lie within the abbot's manor of Cumnor (Berks), but it appears that they were at this date considered to be royal forest for the purposes of hunting stags and hinds; the abbey was allowed access to lesser game within its own wood. This act served as precedent for a confirmation by Henry II (H2/20; Stevenson, ii. 219; Hudson, ii. 302, § 294; Conway Davies, *Cartae Antiquae Rolls 11–20*, 171–2, no. 573, who confused Henry II's act with Henry I's). It was also incorporated into a confirmation of wider scope (H2/19; Stevenson, ii. 220–21; Hudson, ii. 304, § 296).

00 Writ ordering Goscelin de la Rivera to do the full knight-service due from his fee. 1100 × 1105, perhaps 1103

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152v ('De Budena') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 92 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 92 [from Stevenson]; D. C. Douglas & G. W. Greenaway, *English Historical Documents ii 1042–1189* (London, 1953), 920–21 (no. 242), (London, <sup>2</sup>1981), 986 (no. 242) (in English) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 134 (§ 127) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 35; *Regesta* 553.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Gotsel(ino) de Riparia salutem. Precipio ut faciatis (*sic*) Faritio abbati de Abbendona tale seruitium de feudo quod de eo et de abbatia sua tenes, quale fratres tui fecerunt antecessori suo A(delelmo). Quod nisi feceris, ipse abbas inde te constringat per feudum tuum. T(este) Rob(erto) filio Ham(onis). Per W(illelmum) de la Rochella. Apud Lund(oniam).

*Henry king of the English to Goscelin de la Rivera greeting. I command that you shall do Abbot Faritius of Abingdon such service for the fee which you hold of him and of his abbey as your brothers did his predecessor Adelelm. If you do not do it, the abbot himself shall distrain you in this matter by your fee. Witness Robert fitz Haimo. By W(illiam) de Rochella. At London.*

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 159v ('De Bydena') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 150v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 129 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 188 (§ 183) [from BC].

Disrationauit etiam eo die, abbas Faritius contra Godselinum de Riueria seruitium unius militis de Bedena. Idem dicebat se non debere facere seruitium nisi duorum militum pro feudo quem tenebat de ecclesia, et abbas et sui dicebant eum debere seruitium trium militum. Tandem uero uadimonizauit et seruitium et rectum abbati, et firmauit, et omnino concessit se et debere facere et de cetero facturum trium militum seruitium. Et hoc actum est in Abbendonensi camera, coram abbate Faritio, multorum testimonio.

*On that day also Abbot Faritius deraigned against Goscelin de la Rivera the service of one knight from Beedon. The latter said that he had to provide the service of only two knights for the fee that he held of the church, and the abbot and his men said that he*

*owed the service of three knights. At length he pledged both service and justice to the abbot, and he confirmed this and entirely granted that he was obliged to provide and in future would provide the service of three knights. This was done in the chamber at Abingdon in the presence of Abbot Faritius with many men there to witness.*

DATE: Farrer proposed a date 1101–2, *Regesta* goes for 1101; formally one can hardly say more than before Robert fitz Haimo was incapacitated in 1105. Hudson, ii. 134n, noted that this writ led to a suit (§ 183) heard on the same day in 1103 as that associated with 000, *Regesta* 651 (datable to before harvest in 1103); he inferred that the writs would have similar dates.

ADDRESS: Goscelin de la Rivera, against whom complaint had been made.

WITNESS: Robert fitz Haimo. *Per*-clause refers to William de Rochella, who acts in the same capacity for Bury St Edmunds (000, *Regesta* 777, datable September 1102 × August 1106). He also witnessed two acts for Gloucester abbey (W2/000, H1/000, *Regesta* 445, 629).

PLACE: London.

CONTEXT: Walter de la Rivera held Beedon (Berks), assessed at eight hides (i.e. ten hides less two hides held by a *miles*), and part of Benham (Berks), two hides, as the abbot's tenant in 1086 (*DB*, i. 58v; § 7. 15–16). He was among the first men to receive fees from Abbot Adelelm (Stevenson, ii. 23; Hudson, ii. 30, § 27). Mention of 'fratres tui' reveals that Walter was not the only brother of Goscelin enfeoffed by Adelelm. After his death, placed by the chronicle *c.* 1087 × 1091 (ib.), Walter's heir, also called Walter, was a child, and the boy's uncle, Goscelin de la Rivera, pleaded 'in curia regis apud Beccleam' (see note on 000, *Regesta* 697) to have the estate instead. The abbot opposed this, and Goscelin took an oath to hold the fee on behalf of the boy and to provide the customary service of three knights. The figure is that due from Beedon and Benham (2½ knights) and from Bradley (½ knight) (Hudson, ii. 324). When Walter came of age, however, he had difficulty in claiming his inheritance. The present writ belongs to the period when Goscelin, brother of the elder Walter, owed the service on behalf of his nephew, and the second passage quoted (§ 183) shows that he had sought to reduce the service to two knights but was thwarted by Abbot Faritius in his own court at Abingdon. The chronicle makes no connexion between writ and narrative, though there must be some: did Abbot Faritius use the king's writ in order to force Goscelin to settle the matter in the abbot's court?

It is possible that Goscelin had a good reason for seeking a reduction in the service owed. The calculation of his knight-service was based on land at Bradley as well as at Beedon and Benham. Bradley was five hides, counted in Domesday Book as part of Chieveley. In 1086 these five hides were held by one William (*DB*, i. 58v; § 7. 12), who can be identified with William of Jumièges who had recently received Bradley from Abbot Rainald. Goscelin appears to have taken the view that he was dispossessed of Bradley and therefore owed less knight-service. What made him settle was that on the same day in the abbot's chamber and before the same witnesses William of Jumièges quitclaimed Bradley to the abbot, and we might suppose that Goscelin expected to get it back (§ 184; see note on 000, *Regesta* 651).

Goscelin de la Rivera held the manor of Zeals in Wiltshire as tenant in chief (*DB*, i. 73r; § 64). He gave two hides of land at *Forstesberia* (Fosbury, Wilts) to Shaftesbury abbey, when his daughter became a nun there, as appears from spurious general confirmations of the abbey's lands (000, *Regesta* 1347; Ste/818). Exeter

Domesday adds his surname to the otherwise unspecific Goscelin who held one hide taken from the royal manor of Bruton, Somerset (*DB*, i. 86v; § 1. 9); he held this of Robert fitz Gerold de Roumare, which permits the further identification of Goscelin who held five hides at Charlton, Somerset, also of Robert fitz Gerold (*DB*, i. 97r; § 33. 1). It is entirely possible that other lands held by men named Goscelin in Domesday Book should be added to his estate. Was he, perhaps, the Goscelin who held Padworth and North Denchworth in Berkshire of William of Eu (*DB*, i. 61r; §§ 23. 1, 3) and Hanney in the same county of Gilbert de Bretteville (*DB*, i. 61v; § 36. 2)? Goscelin was certainly not a near-landless younger brother. He was dead by 1110 when his ‘son’ Walter (or should that be his nephew?) appears in possession of Benham (000, *Regesta* 956 below).

00 Writ instructing the sheriff of Berkshire and Aubrey on the division of goods since the abbot has deraigned the land unjustly held by William of Jumièges. Michaelmas 1102 × August 1106, perhaps spring or autumn 1103

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r (‘De terra quam tenuit Willelmus Gemmet(icensis)’ [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141v–142r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 93 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 93 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 415 (no. 5) (‘writ of right’) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 136 (§ 130) [from BC].  
CALENDAR: *Regesta* 651.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Alberico salutem. Sciatis quod uolo ut Faritius abbas de Abendona reddat Willelmo Iemmeticensi totam pecuniam suam, scilicet in annona sicca et in pecudibus, quam apportauit ad terram suam de terris aliis. De domibus uero et annonis uiridis et ceteris aliis rebus, fiat rectitudo iusto iudicio comitatus. De terra autem illa faciat predictus abbas suam uoluntatem sicut ei per breue meum concessi, et nulli inde super hoc respondeat. T(este) Wald(rico) cancell(ario). Apud Brantonam.

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and Aubrey greeting. Know that I will that Faritius abbot of Abingdon shall restore to William of Jumièges all his chattels, that is his store of grain and his livestock, which he (sc. Faritius) took away to his land from other lands. But in the matter of the houses and growing crops and other property, justice shall be done by the just judgement of the shire court. But with that land the foresaid abbot shall do his will just as I granted him by my writ, and upon this (my*

*writ) he shall respond to no one in this matter. Witness Waldric the chancellor. At Brampton.*

CHRONICLE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 159v ('De Bradelea') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 150v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii.129 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 188–90 (§ 184) [from BC].

Illa die qua predictum placitum finem accepit, coram isdem testibus illius placiti, Willelmus de Gemmetico reddidit et quietas clamavit abbati Faritio quinque hidas terre, quas Rainaldus abbas iniuste ei dederat, quia de dominio erant in uilla Ciuele, in loco qui dicitur Bradelea; et omnia que in illa terra erant concessit abbati.

*On the day when the previous plea was settled and before the same witnesses as that plea, William of Jumièges restored and quitclaimed to Abbot Faritius the five hides which Abbot Rainald had unlawfully given to him, for they were part of the demesne of Chieveley in a place called Bradley, and everything that was in that land he granted to the abbot.*

DATE: After Waldric was appointed chancellor, Michaelmas 1102; before the king left England for the last time while Waldric was chancellor, July 1106. As the editors of *Regesta* noted, the dispute with William of Jumièges is likely to be that concerning Bradley, mentioned elsewhere in the chronicle (§ 184 and quoted here). This is linked back to the plea concerning Beedon (§ 183, quoted on 000, *Regesta* 553), while the next paragraph (§ 185), also linked ('eodem anno') refers to the settlement of another dispute made in the presence of Serlo, abbot of Gloucester (who died 3 March 1104). If these connexions are accepted, the reference to growing crops indicates a date between sowing and harvest in 1103, while the place-date suggests the hunting season which would therefore exclude the fawning period in June and July.

ADDRESS: The sheriff of Berkshire and Aubrey, surely to be identified with Aubrey of Berkshire, who is named as distrainer in 000, *Regesta* 576. Rather than joint-sheriff, as the editors of *Regesta* thought, or 'local justiciar' (Green, *English Sheriffs*, 26), he may have been for a time undersheriff in Berkshire, for Hugh of Buckland was sheriff of too many counties to manage without local deputies. In this capacity he appears also in 000, *Regesta* 695 for Abingdon, datable 1100 × 1107, and in 0000, *Regesta* 707, for Pain Peverel, datable October 1102 × July 1106. (The editors of *Complete Peerage*, x. 194, must be wrong in inferring that this is Aubrey de Vere the elder, whom they make sheriff of Berkshire alongside Hugh of Buckland as justice.)

WITNESS: Waldric, as chancellor.

PLACE: Brampton, Hunts. This suggests a time during the hunting season

CONTEXT: This writ was one of two on different aspects of the same case. This one begins by saying that the abbot must restore to William of Jumièges his chattels that have been unjustly taken along with land, but the last clause refers to 'aliud breue', presumably an earlier writ, that recognized that the abbot had made good his claim to the land unjustly held by William. That writ does not survive. The writ must have been obtained from the king by William himself.

The chronicler incorporates the writ with no context; the story told elsewhere and quoted above reports that William quitclaimed to the abbot five hides at Bradley in the vill of Chieveley that had been alienated by Abbot Rainald. William of Jumièges must be the same William who held five hides at Bradley within the demesne of Chieveley in 1086 (*DB*, i. 58v; § 7. 12). Abbot Rainald was a former chaplain of King William I and had become a monk of Jumièges; on 19 June 1084 at Rouen the king nominated him abbot of Abingdon, and he was brought to Abingdon, on the king's order, by Bishop Walkelin of Winchester and installed by Bishop Osmund of Salisbury at the feast of the Assumption (§ 16). William was very likely a relative whom he rewarded. It appears from a dispute concerning the knight-service owed to the abbot by Goscelin de la Rivera that Goscelin's brother Walter and Goscelin after him owed three knights on the basis of land held at Beedon and Benham (2½ knights) and Bradley (½ knight); Goscelin demanded a reduction in his knight-service, which the abbot opposed, presumably because Abbot Rainald had disseised him of the land at Bradley; the plea that ended that dispute is the very one referred to in the opening sentence above. It appears, therefore, that the abbot won his point with Goscelin only by ensuring that William of Jumièges relinquished Bradley, and the narrative above reports that William quitclaimed this land to the abbot. One can only wonder what evidence the chronicler had for what he says in §§ 183–4 about these related pleas in the abbot's court in 1103.

The chronicler's summing up of the case is contradicted by the king's writ. In quitclaiming the five hides, William did not grant everything in the estate to the abbot, but Faritius seems to have acted as if he had and taken William's chattels. William therefore sought the king's writ to recover his store of grain and livestock—i.e. movables—which the abbot had unlawfully taken. Other fruits of William's investment since before 1086, in growing crops and in buildings, were to be the subject of a decision of the shire court.

We might assume that Bradley was now given back to Goscelin de la Rivera, who therefore gave up his demand for a reduction in the knight-service he owed. The descent of the manor is obscure (*VCH Berks*, iv. 57–8). In 1242–3, however, we find that Bradley in Chieveley was held as half a knight's fee by Thomas of Jumièges ('Thomas de Gimeges'), while at the same time Goscelin's successor Walter de Riparia held two and a half knight's fees in Beedon (*Fees*, 843–4). To judge from the surnames, the outcome of the case in the abbot's chamber was not the end of the matter.

## 00 Writ-charter quitclaiming the king's right to geld and other royal customs from five hides of land at Longworth (Berks). September 1102 × spring 1105

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r ('De v hidis apud Wrtha') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 37v ('De quinque hidis in Wrtha', no. xxxv, omits witnesses) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 94 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 66 (L104) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 136–8 (§ 132) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 73; *Regesta* 722.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) R(ogero) episcopo Salesb(er)ie et Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et omnibus fidelibus suis de Berch' sira salutem. Sciatis me omnino quietas clamasse V hidas terre de Wrda de terra monachorum de omnibus consuetudinibus meis, scilicet de geldis et placitis et aliis rebus, ad opus elemosine ipsius ecclesie. Et nullus sit ausus predicte terre uel hominibus in ea manentibus ullomodo super hoc iniuriam aliquam facere. Quod si quis fecerit, mihi forisfactus sit. T(estibus) Mathilde regina et Rotberto filio Haim(onis). Per Reinerum de Carisburc. Apud Ceat.

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Hugh of Buckland and all his sworn men of Berkshire greeting. Know that I have entirely quitclaimed five hides of Worth of the land of the monks of all my customs, namely of gelds and pleas and other things, to the use of the alms of the church. And upon this (my writ) no one shall dare to do any injury in any way to the foresaid land or the men dwelling in it. But if anyone shall do it, he shall pay forfeit to me. Witness Queen Matilda and Robert fitz Haimo. By Rainer of Carisbrooke. At Chute.*

DATE: After Roger was nominated bishop of Salisbury, Michaelmas 1102; before Robert fitz Haimo was incapacitated, spring 1105.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Berkshire.

WITNESS: Queen Matilda and Robert fitz Haimo. Rainer of Carisbrooke does not appear elsewhere among the king's acts.

PLACE: Chute, Wilts. In Domesday Book, 'tercia pars silue que uocatur Cetum' is noted as forming part of the demesne estate of Collingbourne Ducis (*DB*, i. 65r; § 1. 19). Chute Forest lies three to four miles north-east of the king's hunting lodge at Ludgershall, Wilts. One other act bears the same place-date, 0000, *Regesta* 723 for Lincoln cathedral.

CONTEXT: The land was identified by Stevenson as 'the manor of Worth in the parish of Faringdon' (Stevenson, ii. 611), that is, the royal manor of Littleworth (Berks), north-east of Faringdon, *Ordia* in Domesday Book (*DB*, i. 58r; § 1. 40), an identification accepted by the editors of *Regesta*. It cannot be right, for Littleworth was granted by Henry II to the Cistercian monks of Stanley (H2/2541; Treasury of Receipt, Ancient Deeds, E40/6685). In all references in the chronicle the five hides are said to be at *Wrda* or some similar form. The place is correctly identified as Longworth in Ganfield hundred by F. Brough, *VCH Berks*, iv. 467. Longworth, *Orda*, already belonged to the abbey in 1086; it was assessed as thirty hides in 1066 and as eight hides in 1086 (*DB*, i. 59r-v; § 7. 39). Are we to understand that there had been a further reduction in assessment from eight hides to five hides before the outright exemption from geld was granted? The chronicler tells us that the land was assigned by Abbot Faritius to the *ministerium elemosine* (Stevenson, ii. 152; Hudson, ii. 216, § 218), something already stated in the king's confirmation, 'ad opus elemosine', and again in the general

confirmation of 1114–15 (000 § 1, *Regesta* 1092). The general confirmation treats this as an acquisition of five hides, and as five hides it entered the account of Faritius's acquisitions in the treatise *De abbatibus Abbendonie* (Stevenson, ii. 288). This act, however, is clearly not a gift of additional land but a renunciation of gelds and other royal customs. This specific exemption is the subject of a second writ with reference to an aid, perhaps in 1110 (000, *Regesta* 959).

Hide assessments were reduced elsewhere in the abbey's estate between 1066 and 1086. Some manors had their assessment reduced by a third (Barton), two fifths (Cumnor), or even half (Little Wittenham), but this is a larger reduction, from which we may perhaps infer a progressive reduction in its geld assessment. In other cases of marked reduction, such as Chieveley and Welford (§§ 7. 12–13), some particular explanation is needed; we know that the king's huntsman had an interest in Welford (000, 000, *Regesta* 615–16, and note there). At Winkfield, reduced from 10 hides to 3½ hides, the survey says, 'De hac terra sunt iiij hide in foresta regis' (*DB*, i. 59r; § 7. 31), the subject of a chapter in the chronicle (Stevenson, ii. 7; Hudson, ii. 8–9, § 6). One may well wonder whether forest rights have been extended over Longworth.

00 Writ-charter notifying the shire courts of Berkshire and Oxfordshire that the king has restored to the church of Abingdon all its former demesne lands, as at the time when King William I gave the abbey to Abbot Rainald. Christmas 1102, 1103, or 1105

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152r ('De dominiis huius ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140v [C].

PRINTED: Dugdale, i. 105 ['fol. 142b', from C], repr. *Monasticon*, i. 521 (no. xviii); Stevenson, ii. 86 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 126–8 (§ 115) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 57; *Regesta* 613. Both merge this and the next document.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rogero episcopo Salesb(erie) et Roberto episcopo Linc(olie) et Hug(oni) de Boch(elandia) et Willelmo de Oxeneford et baronibus suis omnibus et fidelibus francis et anglis de Berch' et Oxeneford scira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse et in perpetuum firmiter reddidisse deo et sancte Marie de Abbendona et Faritio abbati et omnibus successoribus suis omnia dominia quicumque tenet ea quocumque modo et ubicumque sicut eadem ecclesia habebat ea die quando pater meus rex Willelmus dedit Rainaldo abbati abbatiam de Abbendona. T(estibus) Mathild(e) regina et Rogero episcopo Salesb(erie) et <W>ald(rico)<sup>a</sup> cancell(ario) et

W(illelmo) Werelwast. Apud Westm(onasterium) in natale Domini.

<sup>a</sup> Rald' B, with added coloured initial R ] Rainald' C

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Robert bishop of Lincoln and Hugh of Buckland and William of Oxford and all his barons and sworn men French and English of Berkshire and Oxfordshire greeting. Know that I have granted and firmly restored for ever to God and St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and all his successors all the demesnes, whosoever holds them and in what way and wherever, just as the same church used to have them on the day when my father King William gave the abbey of Abingdon to Abbot Rainald. Witness Queen Matilda and Roger bishop of Salisbury and Waldric the chancellor and William Warelwast. At Westminster during Christmas.*

DATE: While Waldric was chancellor, Michaelmas 1102 to late 1106. The king kept Christmas at Westminster in 1102, 1103, and 1105. Farrer opted for Christmas 1102, while for 00, 00, *Regesta* 615, 616, he recognized a wider date-range, 1102 × 1110, and placed them in sequence as for 1109. The editors of *Regesta* brought the three together, though there are no strong reasons for so doing.

ADDRESS: Shire courts of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The order of names in the next act is preferable, since Bishop Robert was much senior to Bishop Roger, as one sees in 000, *Regesta* 937. Hudson follows the reading of this act and draws the inference from the variation in order of the bishops' names that the two texts represent documents for the shires of Berkshire and Oxfordshire respectively; see Context.

WITNESS: Queen Matilda; Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Waldric, as chancellor; William Warelwast, as chaplain.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: This act and the next form a close pair; Farrer and *Regesta* assigned only one number to them. The editors of *Regesta* observed that the second is the 'fuller version'. Hudson specifically notes the 'extra clauses at the end', but he infers that the real difference is in the order of the bishops' names in the address clause, supposing that this one in which the bishop of Salisbury is named first was intended for Berkshire and the second, longer text, which names the bishop of Lincoln first was for delivery to the shire court of Oxfordshire. There are problems with this: the logic does not extend to the names of sheriffs or shires and any writ-charter addressed to two shires would not normally be produced in duplicate, since the writ would be returned to the beneficiary. If the beneficiary wanted two separate writs, each could be addressed to a single shire.

The purpose of the writ-charter appears to be to restate to the shires that the king intends that Abbot Faritius should recover all the demesne lands that had been alienated since the nomination of Abbot Rainald on 19 June 1084. This would cover alienations by Rainald himself (such as the case of William of Jumièges, apparently settled in 1103; 000, *Regesta* 651), by King William during the vacancy after Rainald's death (000, *Regesta* 683), and by Modbert as his custodian of the abbey (000, *Regesta* 521). One can only speculate as to what function this writ served in the campaign to recover alienated estates. The strategy of recovery began as soon as Faritius was installed, and we may perhaps assume that acts such as this should be dated as early as

possible. Christmas 1102 would fall between the nomination of Roger to the vacant see of Salisbury at Michaelmas 1102 and his first taking his place in the shire court of Berkshire after Easter 1103. Might the presence of a new bishop in the court have induced Faritius to launch a fresh campaign of recovery.

The real difference between the two acts is in the command that no one shall remove these lands from the demesne of the monks. Perhaps the second version was for the abbey's officials to have in readiness to produce if they found any infringement.

00 Writ-charter notifying the shire courts of Berkshire and Oxfordshire that the king has restored to the church of Abingdon all its former demesne lands, as at the time when King William I gave the abbey to Abbot Rainald, and commanding that Abbot Faritius shall hold them in peace. Christmas 1102, 1103, or 1105

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152r ('Carta de dominiis huius ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 32v ('De dominiis abbatis et monachorum', no. vj) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 87 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 53 (L75) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 128 (§ 116) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 57; *Regesta* 613. Both merge this and the previous document.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Roberto Linc(olie) et Rogero Salesb(erie) episcopo (*sic*) et Hugoni de Bochelanda et Willelmo de Oxeneford<sup>a</sup> et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis de Berch(escira) et de Oxenefordscira salutem. Sciatis me reddidisse et in perpetuum firmiter concessisse deo et sancte Marie de Abbendona et Faritio abbati et omnibus successoribus suis omnia dominia quicumque tenet ea quoquomodo teneat et ubicumque sint sicut ipsa abbatia ea habebat ea die qua pater meus rex Willelmus dedit Rainaldo<sup>a</sup> abbati abbatiam de Abbendona. Et uolo et firmiter precipio ut in pace et honorifice teneat, et nulli a dominio monachorum ea dominia extrahere liceat. T(estibus) Mathilde regina et Rogero episcopo Salesb(erie). Apud Westm(onasterium)<sup>b</sup> in natale Domini.

<sup>a</sup> Greneford D

<sup>b</sup> Reginaldo D

<sup>c</sup> apud Westmost' D

*Henry king of the English to Robert (bishop) of Lincoln and Roger bishop of Salisbury and Hugh of Buckland and William of Oxford and all his barons French and English of Berkshire and Oxfordshire greeting. Know that I have restored and firmly granted for ever to God and St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and all his successors all the demesnes, whosoever holds them and howsoever he holds and wherever they be, just as the same abbey used to have them on the day when my father King William gave the abbey of Abingdon to Abbot Rainald. And I will and firmly command that he shall hold in peace and honourably, and no one shall be permitted to take those demesnes from the demesne of the monks. Witness Queen Matilda and Roger bishop of Salisbury. At Westminster during Christmas.*

DATE: As preceding act.

ADDRESS: As preceding act.

WITNESS: As preceding act, except for the omission of Waldric the chancellor and William Warelwast.

PLACE: As preceding act.

CONTEXT: See note on preceding act.

00 Writ ordering Earl Henry of Warwick and the sheriff of Warwickshire that the suit of Goscelin against the abbot of Abingdon, concerning land in Hill (Warks), shall be heard in the abbot's court. Christmas 1102 or 1103 or 1105

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r ('De terra de Hylle') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 93 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 90 [from Stevenson]; G. B. Adams, *The Origin of the English Constitution* (New Haven, CT, 1912), 95 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 415 (no. 6) ('writ of right'), 507 (no. 179) ('writ of judicial summons') [from Stevenson]; *English Lawsuits*, 134 (no. 165) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 136 (§ 131) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 135; *Regesta* 654.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) H(enrico) comiti de Warewic et W(illelmo) uicecomiti salutem. Si Goslinus<sup>a</sup> quid clamauerit in terra sancte Marie de Abbendona quam habet apud Hyllam, precipio ut ipse Gosl(inus) eat in curiam abbatis, et ipse abbas sit ibi ei ad rectum. Et defendo ipsi abbati quod non respondeat inde Gosl(ino) in alio loco. T(estibus) Wald(rico)

cancell(ario) et Grimaldo medico. Apud Westm(onasterium)  
in natale Domini.

<sup>a</sup> Goscelinus C

*Henry king of the English to Earl Henry of Warwick and William the sheriff greeting. If Goscelin shall claim anything in the land of St Mary of Abingdon which he has at Hill, I command that Goscelin shall himself go to the abbot's court, and the abbot shall be there to do justice for him. And I forbid the abbot to respond to Goscelin in this matter in any other place. Witness Waldric the chancellor and Grimaldus the physician. At Westminster at Christmas.*

DATE: While Waldric was chancellor, Michaelmas 1102 to late 1106. Henry spent Christmas at Westminster in 1102, 1103, 1105.

ADDRESS: The officers of the shire court of Warwickshire. Earl Henry was at this date Goscelin's lord; see Context. The sheriff W. is presumably William fitz Corbucion, named as sheriff of Warwickshire in the address of W2/000, *Regesta* 388 for Worcester cathedral. In Warwickshire at this date the sheriff served the earl (D. Crouch, 'Geoffrey de Clinton and Roger, earl of Warwick: new men and magnates in the reign of Henry I', *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research* 55 (1982), 113–24 (at pp. 115–17).

WITNESS: Waldric as chancellor; Grimaldus the king's physician.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: The abbey had two possessions in Warwickshire: (1) two hides at Hill in Marton hundred, held in chief in 1086, which the abbot is said to have bought (*emit*) from the fee of Thurkill of Arden and which was held of the abbot in 1086 by one Warin (*DB*, i. 239r; Warks § 7); (2) one hide at Chesterton in Tremlow hundred, held by the abbot as tenant of Thurkill of Arden in 1086 together with a second hide held temporarily 'in uadimonio' (*DB*, i. 241v; Warks § 17. 67–8). The chronicle relates how two hides at Hill and one at Chesterton had been granted (*concessit*) by Thurkill and quotes the writ-charter of William I granting that Abbot Adelelm should hold them in demesne 'just as Thurkill of Arden gave them to the church in alms' (Stevenson, ii. 8; Hudson, ii. 10–12, §§ 8–9; W1/5, datable 1071 × 1083). In the summer of 1088, Henry de Beaumont was made earl of Warwick, and it was presumably at this time that the fee of Thurkill of Arden, amounting to 127 hides, was given by William II 'as a supplement to the earldom of Henry earl of Warwick' (Stevenson, ii. 20; Hudson, ii. 26, § 25). At nearby Birdingbury, Thurkill's tenant in 1086 was one 'Goslinus' (*DB*, i. 241r; § 17. 27), who has nothing else in the county but must be the person named in the writ, and at this date it would seem likely that he held Birdingbury under Earl Henry. We learn from the contemporary list of tenants by knight-service that the abbot's tenant at Hill was named Henry fitz Oin (Hudson, ii. 324). Henry also held land near to the abbey and had succeeded his father Oin during Abbot Faritius's time (Stevenson, ii. 138; Hudson, ii. 202, § 201). It is not clear when Oin was enfeoffed.

The editors of *Regesta*, followed by Van Caenegem, took the writ to refer to Goscelin de la Rivera (see note on 000), but there is no evidence to support this, and the chronicle implies that Goscelin de la Rivera held only Beedon (Stevenson, ii. 129; Hudson, ii. 188, § 183). Goscelin in this case is a different Warwickshire tenant, who may, indeed, have lost his tenancy to Oin.

The writ must be read with care. Goscelin holds land in Hill (*in terra quam habet*), where he may be supposed to be the abbot's tenant; he may have succeeded or supplanted Warin, who was tenant in 1086. It is thought that Goscelin is about to make a claim against the abbot, though it is not apparent that any suit has begun. Faritius has gone to the king for a ruling that Goscelin may only bring his suit in the abbot's court, on the grounds, we may infer, that Hill is the abbot's land and whatever Goscelin holds in Hill he holds of the abbot. On this understanding, whatever claim Goscelin proposes to bring against the abbot involves his suing his lord. The nature of the claim is not made clear, but, since Goscelin has land at Hill, we may infer that he claims to hold not of the abbot but of some other lord and therefore to owe his services not to the abbot but to someone else. A plea between tenants of different lords would be heard in the shire court; it may be presumed that a claim to owe one lord rather than another might also go to the shire. Fearing exactly that, Abbot Faritius obtained a writ addressed to the officers of the shire to tell them that the king commands that Goscelin's case shall be heard by the abbot and that the abbot shall not answer such a case in any other court. (This last sentence is misrendered in Hudson's edition.) The last clause protects the abbot from any difficulties arising from his failure to appear if Goscelin were to sue in the shire court.

On the matter of suing one's lord, Adams, *Origin of the English Constitution*, 95, cites this and a similar writ of King Stephen in favour of the abbot of Gloucester (Ste/355; *Ctl. Gloucester*, ii. 96), which orders the plaintiff to prove his claim in the abbot's court or lose the land he claims to hold of the abbot; others showing the same presumption are 000, 000, *Regesta* 587, 1066, from the cartulary of Ramsey abbey. An earlier example, from the time of William I (W1/221, datable 1080 × 1081), uses the word *capitulum* where the later writs refer to the *curia*, but in this case the abbot is the claimant, the defendant must prove his case in chapter: 'Et si aliquis de abbatia abstulerit ullam terram postquam primitus fui coronatus, precipio ut reddatur, si per capitulum dirationare non potuerit' ('And if anyone has taken anything away from the abbey since I was first crowned, I command that it shall be quickly restored, unless he has been able to deraign it in chapter').

The disappearance of Goscelin and the arrival of Oin as tenant may indicate that Goscelin lost his land at Hill through failure to prove his claim in the abbot's court. Oin's son succeeded to all his lands, and we know from elsewhere in the chronicle that Henry fitz Oin held three hides at Abingdon and one at Drayton (Stevenson, ii. 138; Hudson, ii. 202, § 201), so that we infer that the land at Hill was assigned to an established tenant of the abbey. Henry fitz Oin held land at Abingdon by the service of one knight and also at Hill by the service of one knight, as we read in the list of knight-service due to the abbot (Stevenson, ii. 5; Hudson, ii. 324). The estate in Abingdon was long known from one of his descendants as Fitzharris or Fitz Harry's (A. E. Preston, *Fitzharris. An old Abingdon manor*, Oxford Historical Society 99 (1935), 399–477, at pp. 403–9).

A lawsuit in 1201 complicates matters still further. At that date Abbot Hugh claimed one hide in Hill against Ralf fitz Wigan, who claimed that Henry I had given the land to his father Wigan the Marshall after it had been forfeit to him in 1133 as the land of Roger de Causton, a felon (0000, not in *Regesta*; compare also H2/2826). The abbot won his suit.

The chronicle elsewhere tells of the abbey's dealings over its other estate in Warwickshire, Chesterton. In March 1104 Abbot Faritius arranged an exchange with

one Ansketill, who held in fee five hides of the abbey's twenty-hide estate at Tadmarton (Oxon), and who relinquished his rights in Tadmarton in exchange for one hide in fee at Chesterton in the fee of Earl Henry (Stevenson, ii. 136–8; Hudson, ii. 198–202, §§ 197–8). Earl Henry granted this exchange, and the wording of his writ (§ 198) shows that Ansketill held as tenant of the abbot at Tadmarton and was to do so at Chesterton; it is interesting also to note that Earl Henry's confirmation was dated at Brailes in Warwickshire, a former comital manor of forty-six hides that heads the *Terra regis* in the county in 1086 (*DB*, i. 238r; § 1. 1). This had presumably come to Earl Henry along with the office of earl; in 1130 it was a valuable estate in the hands of his son Roger, earl of Warwick, who agreed to pay 200 marks 'ut rex perdonaret ei superplus hidarum de manerio de Brailes' (*PR 31 Henry I*, 106). The earl had other manors of high value that had not been comital, such as Sutton Coldfield (Warks) and Oakham (Rutland).

00 Writ-charter granting Abbot Faritius licence to cultivate the waste land of Welford (Berks). Christmas 1102 × 1110, perhaps 1102 × 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 151r–v ('De terra uasta apud Weliford') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 139v–140r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 63r (no. 138) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 82 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 122 (§ 105) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 248; *Regesta* 615.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rogero episcopo Salesb(er)ie et Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et omnibus ministris et baronibus francis et anglis de Berchescira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse Faritio abbati de Abbendona terram uastam de Waliford ut eam excolet sicut Crocus uenator et Aluredus de Lincolia ei monstrauerunt. Testibus Aluredo de Linc(olia) et <C>roco<sup>a</sup> uenatore et Hug(one) de Falesia. Apud Westm(onasterium) in natale Domini.

<sup>a</sup> coloured initial D B Droco C

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Hugh of Buckland and all his officials and barons French and English of Berkshire greeting. Know that I have granted to Faritius abbot of Abingdon the waste land of Welford so that he may cultivate it just as Croc the huntsman and Alfred of Lincoln showed him. Witness Alfred of Lincoln and Croc the huntsman and Hugh de Falaise. At Westminster at Christmas.*

DATE: After Roger was nominated bishop of Salisbury, Michaelmas 1102; before the death of Hugh of Buckland, 1116 × 1117. Henry spent Christmas at Westminster in 1102, 1103, 1105, 1107, and 1109; it is not known where he spent Christmas in 1110, but Westminster is likely. He did not keep the festival there again until 1121. Out of thirteen acts dated at Westminster at Christmas, only two, this one and 000, *Regesta* 836 for York St Mary, cannot be restricted to a date before 1107; none of them has a major witness list to help separate different years; but it is possible that the convention of adding ‘in natali domini’ or ‘in natale domini’ lapsed early in the reign.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Berkshire.

WITNESS: Alfred of Lincoln and Croc the huntsman, whose further involvement in the business is indicated within the text. The third witness, Hugh de Falaise, attests only here, though he was addressed in 000, *Regesta* 614, for Chichester cathedral; he may have been undersheriff in Sussex.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: This writ-charter forms a pair with the writ following, addressed to Croc the huntsman (000, *Regesta* 616). Croc the huntsman and Alfred of Lincoln are closely involved, both witnessing, both pointing out where the king’s waste land might be added to the abbot’s estate, and, in the second act, Croc is notified to allow the monks to cultivate in peace provided they do not harm the king’s forest. That writ refers only to two long-standing estates of the abbey, Chieveley and Welford (Berks). Both shrank substantially in their assessment between 1066 and 1086: Chieveley was 27 hides worth £12 in 1066 and after (‘et postea’) but only 7½ hides, worth £10 to the abbot, in 1086 (*DB*, i. 58v; § 7. 12); five hides had been alienated by Abbot Rainald to William of Jumièges between 1084 and 1086 (000, *Regesta* 651). Welford, a few miles to the west, was reduced from 50 hides to 37 hides, but its value remained £27 before 1066, after the Conquest, and still in 1086. This three-date horizon is common in the survey of Berkshire and does not necessarily point to the date at which some change affected these two estates. Little of either estate was held in demesne. While Welford extends south as far as the river Kennet, it is far from clear what was the waste of Welford, where there was any risk of conflict with royal forest, or why Croc the huntsman and Alfred of Lincoln should be so much involved. Another writ, 000, *Regesta* 856, indicates the court had lodged at Welford and that this had caused some *natiui* to leave the abbot’s estate.

00 Writ ordering Croc the huntsman to allow the monks to cultivate their land of Chieveley and Welford (Berks), provided that this does not harm the king’s forest. 1102 × 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v (‘De terra uasta adpud Weliford et Ciuele’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 63r (no. 139) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 83 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 122 (§ 106) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 249; *Regesta* 616.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Croco uenatori salutem. Permite lucrari terram monachorum Abbendone de Ciuelea et Waliford, illam scilicet que non noceat foreste mee et quod non sit de foresta mea. T(este) Aluredo de Linc(olia). Apud Westmoster.

*Henry king of the English to Croc the huntsman greeting. Allow the land of the monks of Abingdon at Chieveley and Welford to be cultivated, but only what shall not harm my forest and what shall not be part of my forest. Witness Alfred of Lincoln. At Westminster.*

DATE: Probably the same occasion as preceding act.

ADDRESS: Croc the huntsman

WITNESS: Alfred of Lincoln, whose witness suggests very likely the same occasion as the preceding act.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: See note on preceding act.

00 Writ-charter instructing the shire court of Berkshire that the abbey shall hold Hormer hundred as it did in King Edward's time and after. September 1102 × spring 1105

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fols. 156v–157r ('De hundreto Hornimere. Carta regis de eadem hundreto') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 146v [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 34r ('De hundred de Hornemera', no. xix, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 124r [E].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 115 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 58 (L88, C345) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 168 (§ 166) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 97; *Regesta* 728.

Comitatus Anglie ubique per centenos, quos hundred uocamus, determinatur. Hec autem ecclesia unum hundred in Sandford adeo libere antiquitus continet, ut nulli alteri nisi soli abbati sit obnoxium. Cui regis homines de Suttuna iuxta Abbendonam semper infensi multociens sue potestati illud subdere <conati><sup>a</sup> sunt, sed abbatis prudentia, nunc regiis litteris, nunc qualibet alia cautela, assidue obuia<sup>b</sup>, in manu propria libere id usque hodie contra cunctos defendit.

<sup>a</sup> subdere sunt BC] subdere conati sunt *conj.* Stevenson

<sup>b</sup> obuus BC ] obuia *conj.* Stevenson

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rogero Salesb(er)iensis episcopo et Hugoni de Boch(elandia) et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis de Berch(escira) salutem. Sciatis quod uolo et concedo et precipio ut abbatia de Abbendona et Faritius abbas et monachi habeant et teneant ita firmiter et honorifice et quiete in perpetuum hundredum de Hornimera sicut melius habuerunt et tenuerunt in tempore Eadwardi regis et Willelmi patris et Willelmi fratris mei. T(estibus) Roberto filio Haim(onis) et Rogero Bigod. Apud Legam.

*The English county is everywhere divided into centeni which we call hundreds. This church has since long ago held a hundred in Sandford so freely that it answers to no one else except the abbot alone. The king's men of Sutton near Abingdon, always hostile toward this hundred, often tried to subject it to their power, but the abbot's prudence, assiduously alert, has defended it in his own hand freely against all men even to this day, sometimes by means of the king's writs, sometimes by some other warning.*

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Hugh of Buckland and all his barons French and English of Berkshire greeting. Know that I will and grant and command that the abbey of Abingdon and Abbot Faritius and the monks shall have and hold the hundred of Hormer as firmly and honourably and quietly for ever as they well had and held in King Edward's time and my father William's and my brother William's. Witness Robert fitz Haimo and Roger Bigod. At Besselsleigh.*

DATE: After Roger was nominated bishop of Salisbury, Michaelmas 1102; before Robert fitz Haimo was incapacitated, 1105.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Berkshire.

WITNESS: Robert fitz Haimo; Roger Bigod.

PLACE: The place-name is probably Domesday Book's *Leie* (*DB*, i. 58v; Berks § 7. 20), frequently *Legh* in medieval sources, and since the sixteenth century Besselsleigh. It appears under Marcham hundred in 1086, later in Hormer hundred, and very close to the hundred boundary. In 1086 it was part of the abbey's estate, held of the abbot by William of Jumièges (on whom see note on 00, *Regesta* 651). An act of William II for Abingdon is also place-dated there (W2/000, *Regesta* 289).

CONTEXT: The hundred of Hormer was granted to Abbot Ordric by Edward the Confessor, though the writ in his name has been altered to add a clause expressly excluding both *scirgerefa* and *motgerefa* (S 1066; Harmer 5; Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 149; Stevenson, i. 465–6). The right to hold the hundred was renewed in a writ of William II (W2/000, *Regesta* 289; Stevenson, ii. 17; Hudson, ii. 20, § 19). The chronicle at this point introduces two writs of Henry I, this one and another that reflects the exercise of the right, 000, *Regesta* 1111, which are presumably the evidence lying behind the statement that the abbot—by implication Faritius in both cases—sought the king's help more than once. This act is not simply a renewal obtained on or soon after Faritius's appointment as abbot, for the address to Bishop Roger shows that it is not earlier than

late 1102. While couched as a notification to the shire, the key words are *uolo et precipio*, so that we should read it as a writ requiring the privilege to be observed. The chronicler returns to the subject in the time of Abbot Vincent, when an attempt was made to deprive the abbey. A new charter concerning Hormer was obtained, apparently in 1126 or 1127 (000, *Regesta* 1477); by the time this was included among a group of charters to be renewed by Henry II at Rouen in 1159 (H2/16 among H2/14–21), an interpolated text had been composed.

Confirmations by King Stephen (Ste/4; Stevenson, ii. 178–9; Hudson, ii. 260–62, § 260) and by Henry II (H2/16; Stevenson, ii. 216–17; Hudson, ii. 298–300, § 290) cite as precedent the charters of King Edward and King William and King Henry. The act of Stephen mistakenly refers to King William as his grandfather, taking William II's writ for an act of William I in spite of its internal reference to the king's father.

## 00 Writ-charter granting to Abbot Faritius justice in the cases of various thieves at Abingdon. November 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152v ('De presbitero latrone') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 63v (no. 141) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 90 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 107 [from Stevenson]; *English Lawsuits*, 136–7 (no. 169) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 132 (§ 122) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 124; *Regesta* 695.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Alberico et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Berchesira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse Faritio abbati sancte Marie de Abbendona ut ipse faciat iusticiam suam de presbitero latrone qui in captione sua in Abbendona est. Et de aliis latronibus suis faciat iusticiam suam similiter uidente comitatu. T(este) Rogero Bigod. Per Walterum Hosatum. Apud Bruhellam.

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and Aubrey and all his barons French and English of Berkshire greeting. Know that I have granted to Abbot Faritius of St Mary of Abingdon that he shall do his own justice in the case of the thieving priest who is in his prison at Abingdon. And in the case of his other thieves he shall likewise do his own justice in the sight of the shire. Witness Roger Bigod. By Walter Huse. At Brill.*

DATE: After Faritius was appointed abbot, 1 November 1100; before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107. Farrer fitted this and the next act, both dated at Brill (Bucks) between 000, *Regesta* 693 (at Aylesbury) and 000–00, *Regesta* 699–703 (at Cornbury). Both are likely to be early in the reign, and the route is plausible, though one may not

infer the direction of travel. The witnesses to both acts were certainly present at Cornbury, but they are all men so constantly with the king that this is not strong evidence for a date near that occasion in October ?1102.

ADDRESS: Presumably the shire court of Berkshire, since the barons of the shire are mentioned alongside Hugh of Buckland, sheriff, and Aubrey of Berkshire, undersheriff (see also 000, 000, *Regesta* 651, 576).

WITNESS: Roger Bigod. The *per*-clause names Walter Huse, who was sheriff of Wiltshire in the early years of the reign.

PLACE: Brill, Bucks.

CONTEXT: The judicial rights of the abbey are expressed in earlier documents in terms of ‘sake and soke and all customs’ (W2/00, *Regesta* 289; 000, *Regesta* 499) or ‘all the customs of his lands’ (W1/4; 000, *Regesta* 499). We can infer that the usual franchises of toll and team and infangthief are included, for these are specified (along with other rights) in the writ of Edward the Confessor (S 1065; Harmer 4; Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 148). The act modelled on William II’s writ has an added clause to mention *latro*, i.e. infangthief, and that would appear to be the right referred to here. Why the abbot sought a writ from the king at this particular time is not apparent, but he evidently did so, and the king provided the writ.

## 00 Writ-charter notifying the officials of Windsor forest that the king has granted the tithe of venison to the church of Abingdon. November 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r (‘De decima foreste de Windlesores’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 33r (‘De decimis uenationis Windes’’, no. xiiij, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald*, 1543/4–1588), fol. 16r (part) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 94 [from C]; J. H. Round, ‘The origin of the FitzGerald’s’, *The Ancestor* 1 (1902), 119–126, ib. 2 (1902), 91–8 (in part 1, p. 124n.) [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 56 (L82) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 138 (§ 133) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 284; *Regesta* 696.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) W(illelmo)<sup>a</sup> filio Walteri et Croco<sup>b</sup> uenatori et Ricardo seruienti et omnibus ministris de foresta Windresores salutem. Sciatis me concessisse deo et sancte Marie de Abbendona totam decimam de uenatione que capta fuerit in foresta de Windesores. T(estibus) Rotberto episcopo Linc(olie) et Eud(one) dap(ifero). Apud Bruhellam.

<sup>a</sup> W. BD ] Willelmo C    <sup>b</sup> Croco BC ] C. D

*Henry king of the English to W(illiam) fitz Walter and Croc the huntsman and Richard the serjeant and all officials of Windsor forest greeting. Know that I have granted to God and St Mary of Abingdon all the tithe of the venison which has been taken in Windsor forest. Witness Robert bishop of Lincoln and Eudo Dapifer. At Brill.*

DATE: After the death of Walter fitz Other, which must have occurred no later than 1107, since his son is addressed in an act attested by Roger Bigod (000, *Regesta* 858). Croc the huntsman cannot be shown to have lived long into Henry I's reign. See also note on 000, *Regesta* 615.

ADDRESS: The castellan of Windsor, the king's huntsman, and a subordinate official. The name of the castellan was not securely known to the chronicler: here B with the support of D reads 'W. filio Walteri', while C has expanded the initial as 'Willelmo'. In another act, 000, *Regesta* 858 (Stevenson, ii. 112; Hudson, 164, § 161), both copies of the chronicle read 'Waltero filio Walteri'. Which is correct? The father, Walter fitz Other, had been castellan in 1086, but how long he lived is not known. By 1130 Windsor and its forest were in the keeping of his son William fitz Walter (*PR 31 Henry I*, 127), who is mentioned much earlier in the chronicle as going to Abingdon with his mother Beatrice to represent his father (Stevenson, ii. 132; Hudson, ii. 192, § 189). Since William both represented his father and succeeded him, he was clearly the heir, so that it is unlikely that another son Walter fitz Walter would be addressed. With this corroboration the reading William has been accepted. The address to Walter fitz Walter in 000, *Regesta* 858, should be corrected, as already proposed by Round, 'Origin of the FitzGerald's', 126. The date of Walter fitz Other's death may therefore be brought forward to no later than 1107. The name of the king's huntsman is written in full, 'Croco uenatori', as in 000, *Regesta* 616; D has the initial C., but one suspects that the name was too exotic for abbreviation and that the reading of D is secondary. Croc the huntsman gained office no later than 1094 (W2/000; *Regesta* 359), perhaps as early as January 1091 (W2/000; *Regesta* 319). He was active in Berkshire, Wiltshire, and Hampshire, and a man of some substance. Round, 124, noted that his name is preserved in the village of Crux Easton (Hants), and that Henry II confirmed to Salisbury cathedral 'decem libratis in terris et decimis quas Croc uenator dedit' (H2/2412; *Monasticon*, viii. 1296). Richard the serjeant, presumably another forest official, is addressed only in this document.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln; Eudo Dapifer.

PLACE: Brill, Bucks.

CONTEXT: Venison was attractive to monastic communities, and several received tithes of venison caught in royal forests (e.g. Peterborough by gift of William II; Gloucester and York St Mary's by gift of Henry I). This act is cited as precedent in a confirmation by Henry II (H2/21; Stevenson, ii. 218–19; Hudson, ii. 302, § 293).

## 00 Writ ordering Robert Mauduit to do service to Abbot Faritius for the land he holds. 1102 × 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152v ('De terra Roberti Maledocti') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 63v (no. 143) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 91 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 97 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 134 (§ 126) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 697.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Roberto Maledocto salutem. Precipio tibi ut abbati Faritio facias seruitium terre quam tenes sicut tui antecessores fecerunt tempore Adelelmi abbatis. Et nisi feceris, tunc precipio ut abbas predictus de terra sua quam tenes suam uoluntatem faciat. T(este) Ric(ardo) de Retueris. Apud Becchelegam.

*Henry king of the English to Robert Mauduit greeting. I command you to do Abbot Faritius the service of the land you hold just as your predecessors did in Abbot Adelelm's time. And if you do not do it, then I command that the foresaid abbot shall do what he will with his land which you hold. Witness Richard de Redvers. At Beckley.*

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 161r ('De Westona') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 152r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 135 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 198 (§ 195) [from BC].

Concessit etiam abbas Faritius Roberto filio Willelmi Maledocti terram IIII<sup>or</sup> hidarum in Westuna in feudum tenendam, quam pater suus tenuerat ab antecessore ipsius. Et hoc seruitium inde faciet, scilicet quod, ubicumque ecclesia Abbendonensis fecerit seruitium militum, ipse pro dimidio milite seruitium faciat eiusdem ecclesie, scilicet in custodia castelli, in expeditione ultra et citra mare, in dandis nummis pro milite, in custodia regis, et ceteris aliis seruitiis, sicut alii milites ecclesie faciunt. Homagium quoque fecit eidem abbati. Hec terra prius seruitium III ebdomadarum tantum faciebat per annum.

*Abbot Faritius also granted to Robert the son of William Mauduit land of four hides in Weston to hold in fee, which his father had held of his predecessor. He will do the service for it, namely that, whenever the church of Abingdon does knight-service, he shall do the service of the same church for half a knight, that is in castleward, in military service on either side of the sea, in paying money in lieu of a knight, in guarding the king, and in other services just as the church's other knights do. He shall also do homage to the abbot. Previously this land owed only the service of three weeks per year.*

DATE: Before the death of Richard de Redvers, 1107. Robert Mauduit was the elder son of William Mauduit, whose death occurred in the period 1102–5 (0000, *Regesta* 729, for his widow Hawise); this writ may well have been obtained soon after he inherited

his father's lands. *Regesta* placed it in sequence as if the king were travelling from Aylesbury to Cornbury via Brill and Beckley.

ADDRESS: Robert Mauduit, the subject of the abbot's complaint.

WITNESS: Richard de Redvers

PLACE: Beckley, Oxon. This is the only act of Henry I so dated. William II appears also to have stayed there, since the Abingdon chronicle tells how Goscelin de la Rivera (see note on 000, *Regesta* 553), bringing a plea to the king, 'in regis curia apud Becceleam tunc constituta argumentari inde exorsus est' (Stevenson, ii. 23; Hudson, ii. 30, § 27). In 1086 the manor belonged to Roger d'Ivry (*DB*, i. 158v; Oxon § 29. 2).

CONTEXT: Robert Mauduit held four hides at Weston (Berks) as tenant of Abingdon abbey, just as his father William had done in 1086 (*DB*, i. 58v; Berks § 7. 14). The chronicle includes a revealing passage about the service he owed for this land, though it is not directly linked with the writ. It appears that William Mauduit had perhaps not done homage to Abbot Faritius, since he is said to have held of his predecessor Abbot Rainald who had died in 1097. Since the narrative apparently refers to an increase in the knight-service owed from Weston over its 'previous' service for three weeks of the year, it may be that this change is later than the writ, which orders Robert to do the service that his predecessor did in Abbot Adelelm's time.

00 Writ ordering the sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire to seise Abbot Faritius of his customs due to him from the use of the river Thames. November 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r ('Item de consuetudine nauium') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv-xv), fol. 85r ('Carta de consuetudinibus per aquam Tamesie') [E].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: Bodl. MS 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581-1644), p. 171 (now fol. 109r) ['Notes sent downe by Mr Rich(ard) James touchinge the barges cominge to Oxford', from B or C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 95 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 124-5 [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, ii. 193 (C209) (English abstract) [from E]; Hudson, ii. 138-40 (§ 136) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 854.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Willelmo de Oxeneford uicec(omitibus) salutem. Precipio uobis ut faciatis Faritio abbati de Abbendona et omnibus monachis Abbendone habere omnes consuetudines in omnibus rebus quas habere debent per aquam Tamisie ubicumque habere debent. Et ita ne pro penuria iusticie uestre ipsa

ecclesia uel monachi quicquam perdant, super X libras. T(este) Rogero Big(od). Per Aret falconarium. <Apud Westmuster.><sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *om. BC; supplied from 000, Regesta 856, also witnessed by Roger Bigod and obtained by Aret the falconer.*

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and William of Oxford sheriffs greeting. I command you to cause Faritius abbot of Abingdon and all the monks of Abingdon to have all their customs in all things which they ought to have on the river Thames wherever they ought to have them, so that the church and its monks shall not suffer any loss for want of your justice, upon £10. Witness Roger Bigod. By Aret the falconer. <At Westminster.>*

DATE: Before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107.

ADDRESS: The sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire

WITNESS: Roger Bigod. The intermediary was Aret the Falconer, to whom 000, *Regesta* 855 below, is addressed.

PLACE: Perhaps omitted because in B it was all that remained to carry overleaf (though at the foot of fol. 151vb he fitted a place-date in the lower margin).

CONTEXT: This is one of two acts concerning river-transport, placed side by side in the chronicle; the other, § 135, which precedes it in the chronicle, is a more informative writ-charter datable only to 1102 × c. 1110 (000, *Regesta* 937). See note there.

00 General writ ordering the return of Abbot Faritius's men with their chattels, who left Welford on account of the lodging of the court or for other reasons. November 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151r ('De fugitiuis de Weliford') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 48r (no. 78) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 82 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 95–6 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 470 (no. 110) ('naifty') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 120–22 (§ 104) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 856.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus uicecomitibus et ministris et fidelibus suis francis et anglis totius Anglie salutem. Precipio uobis ut sine aliqua mora faciatis habere Faritio abbati de Abbendona omnes homines suos qui de terra sua exierunt de Walifort propter herberiam curie mee uel propter

alias res et cum omni pecunia sua ubicumque sint. T(este) Rogero Big(od). Per Aretum falcon(arium). Apud Westmuster.

*Henry king of the English to all his sheriffs and officials and sworn men French and English of all England greeting. I command you that without any delay you shall cause Faritius abbot of Abingdon to have all his men who left his land at Welford, on account of the lodging of my court or for other reasons, and with all their chattels, wherever they may be. Witness Roger Bigod. By Aret the falconer. At Westminster.*

DATE: After Faritius was appointed abbot, 1 November 1100; before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107. Perhaps on the same occasion as 000, *Regesta* 854.

ADDRESS: Sheriffs and officials throughout England.

WITNESS: Roger Bigod. The intermediary was Aret the falconer to whom 000, *Regesta* 855, was addressed.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: It is not known at what point or why the king's court lodged at Welford, about six miles NW of Newbury. Requisitioning to meet the needs of the court is a likely occasion of the difficulty. It is also clear from other documents that the king's huntsman had authority in this area (000, 000, *Regesta* 615, 616), and it is possible that hunting over land farmed by the abbot's men had caused them to leave. Another writ shows that royal officials continued to disturb the abbot's property at Welford (000, *Regesta* 984).

00 Writ notifying the king's foresters that the men of Abbot Faritius may take away timber without hindrance for building-work at the abbey. November 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150v ('Ad Aret falconarium') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 47r-v (no. 72 [from C]).

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 78 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 96 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 116 (§ 93) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 855.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Aret falcon(ario) et omnibus forestariis suis salutem. Volo et precipio ut omnia ligna et uirgas que fuerint data uel uendita hominibus abbatis Faritii de Abbandona ad opus suorum operum sine omni impedimento et disturbance possint ea conducere in pace quocumque uoluerint. T(este) Rogero Big(od). Apud Wincestam.

*Henry king of the English to Aret the falconer and all his foresters greeting. I will and command that all timbers or stakes that are given or sold to the men of Abbot Faritius of Abingdon to the use of their building works can be transported in peace wherever they want without any hindrance or disturbance. Witness Roger Bigod. At Winchester.*

DATE: Before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107.

ADDRESS: Aret, the king's falconer, and the king's foresters. Aret is also addressed, alongside Croc the huntsman, in an act of William II for Malmesbury abbey (W2/000, *Regesta* 347). He also held land in Wiltshire in Henry I's time (000, *Regesta* 673 for Gloucester abbey); perhaps also to be identified with 'Arnald' the falconer, possibly a false reading (000, 000, *Regesta* 1163, 1972 for Salisbury cathedral). He witnesses two acts for Abingdon, place-dated at Romsey and at Cornbury (000, 000, *Regesta* 956, 961) and appears in *per*-clauses in two acts for Abingdon, place-dated at Westminster (000, 000, *Regesta* 854, 856). It seems likely that he should be identified with Aretius, a royal official, who held Lew (Oxon) from the king in 1086 (*DB*, i. 160v; Oxon § 58. 20). His area of responsibility in Henry I's time might be Wiltshire alone or might include such forest land in Berkshire as was not administered from Windsor. It is not clear, however, from where Abingdon was obtaining its timber.

WITNESS: Roger Bigod.

PLACE: Winchester.

CONTEXT: See Address. The major rebuilding of the abbey church had begun by Abbot Rainald early in the reign of William II (Stevenson, ii. 23–4; Hudson, ii. 30–33, § 28), and Queen Matilda granted lead from the king's houses at Andersey for use in the building-work in 1101–2 (000, *Regesta* 565), which the chronicler takes to mean that work had reached the stage of roofing the new church. Faritius subsequently rebuilt the conventual buildings and enlarged the east end of the new church, which work which was consecrated by Archbishop Ralph, 1114 × 1117 (Stevenson, ii. 45–6; Hudson, 66–7, § 55). There may be reason here to think that the writ should be dated to the first years of the reign when the main period of rebuilding the church was drawing to a close. The chronicler made no attempt to contextualize.

## 00 Writ ordering Walter Huse to allow the abbot's men at Whistley to be in peace, since the king has quitclaimed them. November 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r ('De hominibus de Wisselea') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 94–5 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 87 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 138 (§ 134) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 857.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) W(altero) Osato salutem. Precipio tibi ut dimittas in pace homines abbatis de Abbendona qui sunt

in Wisseleia quos requiris, quia ego clamo eos quietos. T(este)  
 Rogero Big(od). Apud Wind(resores).

*Henry king of the English to W(alter) Huse greeting. I command you to leave in peace the men of the abbot of Abingdon who are in Whistley, whom you claim, since I quit claim them. Witness Roger Bigod. At Windsor.*

DATE: Before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107.

ADDRESS: Walter Huse must at this date be the royal official responsible for collecting royal dues at Whistley (Berks). He was already sheriff of Wiltshire at an early date in the reign (000, *Regesta* 494 for Malmesbury).

WITNESS: Roger Bigod.

PLACE: Windsor, Berks. More usually written Windr(esores).

CONTEXT: Whistley, now Whistley Green, in the eastern part of the county near Windsor, where the abbey had a manor of seven hides in 1086 (*DB*, i. 59r; § 7. 32), was ten hides in 968 and in 1066; King Edgar's diploma is now without its boundary clause (S 769; Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 109). The chronicler provides little information on the abbey's interest apart from an agreement with Bishop Osmund over a chapel at Whistley in 1089 (Stevenson, ii. 18–19; Hudson, ii. 22–24, §§ 21–2). When King Stephen was in Oxford, the abbot obtained a writ of protection for the two estates near Windsor, Whistley and Winkfield (Ste/7; Stevenson, ii. 182; Hudson, ii. 342, § 264a).

00 Writ-charter notifying the castellan of Windsor castle  
 that the king has confirmed the grant by Rainer to the  
 church of Abingdon of Albert's house at Windsor.  
 November 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 156v ('Carta de hospicio apud Windlesores') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 146r–v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald*, 1543/4–1588), fol. 16v [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 88r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 112 [from C]; J. H. Round, 'The origin of the FitzGerald's', *The Ancestor* 1 (1902), 119–126, ib. 2 (1902), 91–8 (in part 1, p. 126n.) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 164 (§ 161) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 858.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) W<illelmo><sup>a</sup> filio Walteri de  
 Windresore salutem. Sciatis quod concedo Faritio abbati et  
 ecclesie Abbendone terram illam et domum de Windresores

que fuit Alberti sicut Rainerius eam sibi concessit. T(este) Rogero Bigod. Apud Lond(oniam).

<sup>a</sup> Waltero BC, *received by Stevenson and Hudson; corrected by Round*

*Henry king of the English to W<illiam> fitz Walter of Windsor greeting. Know that I grant to Abbot Faritius and the church of Abingdon the land and house at Windsor which belonged to Albert just as Rainer granted it to them. Witness Roger Bigod. At London.*

DATE: Before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107.

ADDRESS: The castellan of Windsor, named in the chronicle here as Walter fitz William. Elsewhere the chronicler retained the initial W. but the later reviser expanded this to read 'Willelmus'. Other evidence is needed to resolve the question. Round was the first to show that the castellan's name was William fitz Walter (see note on 000, *Regesta* 696).

WITNESS: Roger Bigod.

PLACE: London.

CONTEXT: Albert the clerk is mentioned among other court officials as holding land at Windsor in 1086 (*DB*, i. 56v; Berks § 1. 1). He also held a manor at nearby Dedworth, which had been held by Hugh the chamberlain in 1066 (*DB*, i. 63r; § 56). He would appear, therefore, to have been an official. Round, *Commune of London*, 36–8, identified him with Albert, a Lotharingian, who was a royal chaplain in the time of King Edward and King William. It seems likely that Rainer to whom his house had passed since 1086 was also an official, not necessarily based at Windsor. It would not be unusual for minor officials to be provided with a house; we know from deeds of Bernard the scribe that royal scribes had houses in Winchester, which passed from one scribe to another (*Regesta* 1364, 1852, not royal acts but treated here under Bernard the King's scribe). It is more surprising that Rainer should be authorized to give the house to the abbey. The chronicler provides no context but quotes this act immediately after one concerning the abbot's house in Winchester (000, *Regesta* 1110).

00 Writ ordering the sheriff of Oxfordshire to allow the church of Abingdon to have its customs, in particular in the case of the fight between Atselin's brother and Ansketill's squire. 1100 × 1108, possibly × March 1104

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 151r ('De consuetudinibus ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 139r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 47v (no. 74) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 80 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 118 (§ 99) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 134; *Regesta* 724.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) W(illelmo) uicecomiti de Oxeneford salutem. Precipio ut permittas et facias sancte Marie Abbendone habere omnes illas consuetudines in hominibus suis, et nominatim de uerberatione quam frater Atselini et scutigier Anskitilli fecerunt inter eos, quas melius et plenius habuit tempore patris et fratris mei. Et nullus sit ausus ei inde super hoc iniuriam facere. T(este) <V>rsone<sup>a</sup> de Abetot. Apud Warengford.

<sup>a</sup> *coloured initial missing B*

*Henry king of the English to William sheriff of Oxford greeting. I command that you shall allow and cause to have to (the church of) St Mary of Abingdon all the customs in its men, and in particular in the fight which Atselin's brother and Ansketill's squire made between one another, which it well and fully had in my father's time and my brother's. And upon this (my writ) no one shall dare to do it any injury in this matter. Witness Urse d'Abetot. At Wallingford.*

DATE: Before the death of Urse d'Abetot in the closing months of 1108. See Context.

ADDRESS: William of Oxford, sheriff of Oxford, who has taken action that infringed the abbot's rights over his own men.

WITNESS: Urse d'Abetot.

PLACE: Wallingford, Berks.

CONTEXT: The wording refers only to 'St Mary of Abingdon' but the example of 000, *Regesta* 499, is sufficient to show that this expression was understood as meaning the abbey rather than the saint. It appears that a case of fighting has arisen in Oxfordshire and that the sheriff has taken action, but the offenders are under the jurisdiction of the abbey and Abbot Faritus has sought the support of a royal writ to allow him to exercise his judicial rights. Atselin, whose brother was involved, is presumably *Azelinus*, the tenant who held Milton (Berks) of the abbot in 1086 (*DB*, i. 59r; § 7. 27; Hudson, ii. 383). He held nothing in Oxfordshire, but the abbot none the less claims jurisdiction over his tenant. Ansketill must also have been a tenant of the abbey, though not in Oxfordshire in 1086. Early in Henry I's reign, however, the abbey's manor of Tadmarton (Oxon) was held by one Ansketill, who with his son Robert surrendered it to Abbot Faritus in exchange for Chesterton (Warks) (Stevenson, ii. 136–7; Hudson, ii. 198–200, § 197). The exchange was made in the chapter house at Abingdon on 7 March 1104 and afterwards confirmed at Brailes by Earl Henry of Warwick. After this exchange Atselin and Ansketill were still tenants of the abbey, and the location of the incident explains the intervention of the sheriff of Oxfordshire.

00     Writ ordering the barons of the abbey's court to do ward service at Windsor castle. November 1100 × 1108

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152v ('Ad milites huius ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141r-v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 49r (no. 83) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 90 [from C]; D. C. Douglas & G. W. Greenaway, *English Historical Documents ii 1042–1189* (London, 1953), 921 (no. 243), (London, <sup>2</sup>1981), 986–7 (no. 243) (in English) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 132 (§ 123) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 725.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus baronibus abbacie de Abbandona salutem. Volo et uobis firmiter precipio ut faciatis wardam meam de Windresores sicut solebatis facere tempore Rainaldi abbatis et tempore fratris mei et sicut abbas Faritius uobis preceperit, et sitis ei obedientes. Et multum me piget de hoc quod preceptum eius non facitis uti facere deberetis. T(este) <V>rson<sup>a</sup> de Abetot. Apud Wareng(eford).

<sup>a</sup> *coloured initial missing B*

*Henry king of the English to all the barons of the abbey of Abingdon greeting. I will and firmly command that you shall do my ward at Windsor just as you used to do in Abbot Rainald's time and my brother's time and just as Abbot Faritius has ordered you, and you shall obey him. And it greatly displeases me in this that you do not do his command as you ought to do. Witness Urse d'Abetot. At Wallingford.*

DATE: Before the death of Urse d'Abetot, and perhaps on the same occasion as the preceding act.

ADDRESS: The abbot's court. The honorial *barones* of the abbey, addressed as such by the king in this writ concerning their service, were described as *milites* by the writer of the rubric. This neatly reflects a change in perception between the date of the act and the date of the Abingdon history.

WITNESS: Urse d'Abetot.

PLACE: Wallingford, Berks.

CONTEXT: The chronicler elsewhere indicates the obligations of service on the military tenants of the abbey, namely 'in castleward, in military service on either side of the sea, in paying money in lieu of a knight, in guarding the king, and in other services just as the church's other knights do' (Stevenson, ii. 135; Hudson, ii. 198, § 195; see above on 000, *Regesta* 697). Abbot Faritius has found his *barones* unwilling to provide castleward and has sought the king's writ to persuade them to meet their obligations; he was presumably under pressure from the castellan at Windsor. Other royal writs emphasise the obedience to an abbot required of his men, most concisely in William II's writ to the men of the abbey of Stow, 'Precipio uobis omnibus ut ita sitis obedientes domino uestro Columbano abbati sicut fuistis Remigio episcopo in omnibus rebus' (W2/000, *Regesta* 334); compare the orders to the men of Christ Church, Canterbury,

‘predictis monachis subditi sint et subiecti et in omnibus obedientes’ (W2/000, *Regesta* 418, and H1/000, *Regesta* 1522).

00 Writ ordering the sheriff of Worcestershire to allow the salt of the monks of Abingdon to be quit of toll and customs. August 1100 × 1108

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152r (‘Carta de sale apud Wiche’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 63r (no. 140) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 87r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 88 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 92 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 130 (§ 118) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 566.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Vrsoni<sup>a</sup> de Wirecestra uicecomiti, salutem. Precipio tibi ut salem monachorum de Abbendona permittas esse ab omni theloneo et consuetudinibus quietum, et bene precipias tuis ministris de Wice ne supradictorum monachorum rebus forisfaciant, et ita ne amplius clamorem inde audiam. T(este) Hug(one) de Boch(eland). Apud Suttunam.

<sup>a</sup> Vrstone BC

*Henry king of the English to Urse of Worcester sheriff greeting. I command you to allow the salt of the monks of Abingdon to be quit of all toll and customs and well to command your officials at Droitwich that they shall not commit any offence affecting the goods of the foresaid monks, so that I shall hear no more complaint. Witness Hugh of Buckland. At Sutton Courtenay.*

DATE: Before the death of Urse d’Abetot in 1108. He is last addressed in an act datable to May–July 1108 (000, *Regesta* 892).

ADDRESS: Urse d’Abetot as sheriff of Worcestershire.

WITNESS: Hugh of Buckland, sheriff of Berkshire and other counties. The monks of Abingdon were constantly dealing with him as sheriff, but he was also their tenant at Buckland, near Faringdon (Berks), where he held ten hides of the abbey, as we see from a contemporary list of the abbey’s tenants by knight-service (Stevenson, ii. 5; Hudson, ii. 324).

PLACE: Sutton Courtenay (Berks). The editors of *Regesta* supposed that this act and Queen Matilda’s writ, 000, *Regesta* 565, also dated at Sutton and datable to 1101, were sealed on the same occasion. There is insufficient justification for this. Assigning

both acts to the same occasion raises a question about the queen's acting independently of the king at a time when he was present.

CONTEXT: A writ of Henry II orders the bailiffs of Droitwich to restore to the monks of Abingdon 'their salt, just as the used to have it in the time of King Henry my grandfather' (H2/9, proposing a date 1155 × 1172, perhaps × 1165; Stevenson, ii. 223; Hudson, ii. 348, who proposes a date 1155 × 1157). The monks of Worcester had a large interest in salt-working based on the brine-springs at Droitwich (Worcs), but there is no evidence that Abingdon had its own source of salt. While Henry I's writ implies only that officials at Droitwich were levying tolls and customs, from which the abbey had a general exemption, the writ of Henry II implies rather that the bailiffs were withholding a recurrent allowance of salt to which the monks had some historic right.

For pre-Conquest background on the importance of Droitwich, see D. Hooke, 'The Droitwich salt-industry: an examination of the West Midland charter evidence', *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History* 2 (1981), 123–70; J. R. Maddicott, 'London and Droitwich, c. 650–750: trade, industry, and the rise of Mercia', *Anglo-Saxon England* 34 (2005), 7–58.

00 Charter restoring to the abbey the ten hides at Sparsholt, called Fawler, which had fallen into King William II's hands and been granted to Thurstan his dispenser, whose son Hugh shall hold of the abbot. February 1105

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 159r ('Carta regis de Speresholt') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 149v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 33v ('De X hidis terre in uilla que uocatur Fagaflora', no. xv, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 17r [from C]; London, College of Arms, MS Philipot b. 29 (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 227r [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 52r (no. 94) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 88v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 126–7 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 56 (L84) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 184–6 (§ 181) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 114; *Regesta* 683.

Prope montem ubi ad Album Equum scanditur, ab antiquo tempore ecclesia ista manerium Offentun appellatum in dominio possidet, iuxta quod uilla decem hidarum adiacet ex iure ecclesie, quam Speresholt nominant. Hanc miles, Anskillus nomine, de ecclesia tempore Rainaldi abbatis pro unius militis seruitio tenebat. Verum hunc contigit et ipsius abbatis regisque iunioris Willelmi inimicitias adeo incurrisse postea, ut in regia poneretur captione, ibique moreretur. Quare rex manus ad ecclesie possessionem mox iniciens, Turstino suo dispensatori illam

dedit. Quo mortuo, filius eius Hugo eadem ratione per regem in ipsa successit. Eratque in hoc negotio quod maxime abbatiam tenebat. Nam nullum more militum seruitium exhibebatur inde, et si quando regio imperio gildebatur, obolum ad ualens nolente predicto Hugone reddere, homines de Offentuna cum suo etiam ipsius gildum exoluere cogebantur. Quam iniusticiam cum pater uenerabilis Faritius, abbatiam postea regens, comperisset, nunc apud regem, nunc apud reginam, tum apud regni consultores, se multis uicibus circumferens, petendo, munerando, ad hoc laborem suum perduxit, ut et terram ipsam et ipsius Hugonis homagium cum antiquo seruitio et gildum decem hidarum suarum, sollerti industria ad ecclesie libertatem optineret, datis regi sexaginta libris argenti. Regis itaque littere de hac re sic se habent:

Ego Henricus dei gratia rex Anglorum, consilio et assensu Mathildis uxoris mee baronumque meorum tam presulum quam laicorum, reddo atque concedo et in perpetuum confirmo deo et ecclesie sancte Marie de Abbendona et abbati monachisque eiusdem cenobii decem hidas in Esperesholt, que et alio nomine uocatur Fagaflora,<sup>a</sup> uidelicet quas tenet in presentiarum Hugo filius Turstini, curie mee dispensator. Vnde uolo et precipio ut ipse Hugo et quicumque post eum eas habuerit hominum inde ecclesie et abbati ac fidelitatem faciat. Et tale seruitium inde faciat predictae ecclesie atque abbati quale factum fuit ab Anskillo eidem ecclesie tempore regis Willelmi patris mei, et tempore Adelelmi eiusdem loci abbatis. Et hoc pro animabus patris matrisque mee et fratris mei regis Willelmi et anime mee necnon pro salute uxoris mee Mathildis regine omniumque fidelium dei defunctorum facio et propria manu confirmo et consigno. Testibus subscriptis.

+ Ego Henricus rex redditionem et donationem hanc signaui.

Ego Rannulfus Dunelmensis episcopus interfui. +

Ego Iohannes Batoniensis episcopus interfui et confirmaui. +

Ego Herueus Pangornensis episcopus interfui. +

Ego Robertus Lincolniensis episcopus interfui et confirmaui. +

Ego Rogerus electus Salesbiriensis episcopus interfui et confirmaui. +

Ego Willelmus de Werelwast interfui. +  
 Ego Waldricus regis cancellarius interfui et confirmaui. +  
 Ego Grimbaldus medicus interfui. +  
 Nos dapiferi Henrici regis Eudo, Rogerius Bigod, Haimo  
 interfuimus et concessimus. +  
 Ego Vrso de Abetot interfui. + Ego Walterus filius Ricardi  
 interfui. + Ego Rogerus de Oilei constabulus interfui. Hoc  
 actum est anno Dominice incarnationis .M.C.V. indictione  
 XIII<sup>a</sup> anno uero Henrici serenissimi regis quinto in curia  
 eiusdem regis apud Romesei.

<sup>a</sup> Fagaflora D | Flagaflorea BC

*Near the hill where it rises to the White Horse this church possesses in demesne, and has done since long ago, a manor called Uffington. Near this a vill of ten hides called Sparsholt belongs by right to the church. A knight named Anskill used to hold it of the church in the time of Abbot Rainald for the service of one knight. It later happened that this man incurred such hostility from both the abbot and King William the younger that he was put into the king's prison and died there. Therefore the king, quickly able to get his hands on the church's property, gave it to his dispenser Thurstan. On Thurstan's death his son Hugh succeeded him as dispenser and was therefore allowed by the king also to succeed him in that property. There was something in this business that was a great nuisance to the abbey, because the customary knight-service was not done, and whenever a geld was taken by the king's command, because the foresaid Hugh would not pay so much as a halfpenny, the men of Uffington were forced to pay Hugh's geld along with their own. When the venerable father Faritius, who later ruled the abbey, came to know of this injustice, he took himself time and again to the king, to the queen, to the counsellors of the realm, petitioning them and offering payment, till he brought his efforts to this conclusion, that he obtained for the good of the church by his skilful attention the land and the homage of Hugh, together with the former service, and the geld of his ten hides. The king's letters on this matter are as follows:*

*I Henry by the grace of God king of the English, by the counsel and assent of my wife Matilda and of my barons both prelates and laymen, restore and grant and for ever confirm to God and the church of St Mary of Abingdon and to the abbot and monks of that monastery ten hides in Sparsholt, which is by another name called Fawler, which is held at present by Hugh fitz Thurstan, dispenser of my court. Wherefore I will and command that the same Hugh and whoever shall have those hides after him shall do homage and fealty for them to the church and abbot, and he shall do such service to the foresaid church and abbot as was done by Anskill to the same church in my father King William's time and the time of Abbot Adelelm of that church. I do this for the souls of my father and mother and my brother King William and for my soul and also for the salvation of my wife Queen Matilda and all God's faithful departed and by my own hand I confirm and seal it. With these underwritten witnesses.*

+ I Henry have signed this restoration and gift.  
 + I Ranulf bishop of Durham was present.  
 + I John bishop of Bath was present and confirmed it.  
 + I Hervey bishop of Bangor was present.  
 + I Robert bishop of Lincoln was present and confirmed it.  
 + I Roger elect of Salisbury was present and confirmed it.  
 + I William de Warelwast was present.  
 + I Waldric the king's chancellor was present and confirmed it.  
 + I Grimaldus the physician was present.  
 + We King Henry's stewards Eudo, Roger Bigod, Haimo were present and granted it.  
 + I Urse d'Abetot was present.  
 + I Walter fitz Richard was present.  
 + I Roger d'Oilly the constable was present.  
 This was done in the year of the Lord's incarnation 1105 in the thirteenth indiction and in the fifth year of the reign of the most serene King Henry in the king's court at Romsey.

DATE: Internally dated to 1105. The king held court at Romsey in February before sailing for Normandy. See Context.

ADDRESS: No address in diploma form.

WITNESS: A major witness list, including five bishops, Ranulf of Durham, John of Bath, Hervey of Bangor (in exile from his Welsh see), Robert of Lincoln, and Roger of Salisbury (styled 'elect'). The precedence given to William de Warelwast over Waldric the chancellor suggests that he may already have been intended for the see of Exeter but, owing to Archbishop Anselm's stand on investitures and his own role in negotiating with the pope, he was not yet close enough to nomination even to be styled bishop elect. Waldric witnesses as chancellor, and Grimaldus the physician was a frequent witness for Abingdon. The laymen who witness, though not of the highest rank, were all influential officials in the court, Eudo Dapifer, Roger Bigod, and Haimo Dapifer, all stewards; Urse d'Abetot, Walter fitz Richard, and Roger d'Oilly.

PLACE: Romsey, Hants.

CONTEXT: The witness list bears sufficient comparison with that of 000, *Regesta* 684 for Ely abbey, an original act dated to the fifth year of the reign at Romsey, to infer that they were made on the same occasion. The fifth year indicates a date no later than 4 August 1105, and the king was in Normandy from before Easter (9 April 1105). It is likely therefore that the occasion was a large gathering before the king sailed. The wording of the Ely act, 'in curia mea apud Romesi coram me et baronibus meis', and of this one, 'in curia eiusdem regis apud Romesei', make it likely that the court actually met at Romsey; this was not merely a stopping point on the road to Winchester. Farrer brought together these and others acts under the date February–March, following an act for Thetford dated at Romsey 'in transitu regis in proxima die ante festum sancti Valentini martiris' (13 February) (000, Farrer 113; confused with another act in *Regesta* 682).

Background to this account had been provided earlier in the chronicle (Stevenson, ii. 36–7; Hudson, ii. 52, § 45). Anskill is named in Domesday Book as the abbot's tenant, holding five hides at Seacourt, he and Gilbert (very likely Gilbert de Colombières) held ten hides at Bayworth in the large estate of Barton, Anskill had one hide in Marcham and ten hides in Sparsholt (*DB*, i. 58v–59r; §§ 7. 2, 10, 17, 38); these

four holdings are specified in the chronicle (§ 45). The story is there told how Anskill's enemies brought on him the anger of William II, leading to his imprisonment and death. The king, 'manum immittens' (compare 'manus . . . mox inciens' here), gave Sparsholt to Thurstan the dispenser, and Abbot Rainald only prevented the king from taking the rest of Anskill's land by paying him £60. Anskill's widow Ansfrid became the mistress of Count Henry, the king's brother, and was thereby enabled to retain the land at Bayworth as her dower, while her son by Anskill, William of Seacourt, succeeded to the land at Seacourt and in Marcham.

The land in Sparsholt is called here Fawler. On the ground the village of Fawler is nearer to Uffington than it is to the village of Sparsholt, and it lies closer to the foot of White Horse Hill than Uffington does. The ten hides are referred to as 'Speresholte' in a charter of King Edgar (S 713; Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 97, whose note on the boundary clause identifies the manor of Fawler), as 'Spersold' in Domesday Book (*DB*, i. 59r; § 7. 38), and as 'Speresholt' in the chronicle (§§ 45, 180). The name Sparsholt is elsewhere used of the royal manor (*DB*, i. 57r; Berks § 1. 10), and smaller holdings in the hands of Henry de Ferrers (§ 21. 12), Hascoit (§ 35. 5), and Thurstan fitz Rolf (§ 55. 4). This act, therefore, appears to be the first document to use the name Fawler to distinguish which part of Sparsholt it concerns.

Thurstan the dispenser does not attest any acts of William I or William II. Round, *King's Serjeants*, 186–97, showed that Robert fitz Thurstan, who held Great Rollright, Oxon, in 1086 (*DB*, i. 160v; § 58. 4–5), was ancestor to a line of dispensers and that Great Rollright was held by serjeanty as late as the reign of Henry VII. Round makes the Thurstan of our narrative Robert's son, so that Hugh fitz Thurstan in 1105 is taken for the grandson of William II's dispenser. (In this he is followed by *Regesta*, vol. i, p. xxvii, but the editors there identify Robert fitz Thurstan with Robert Dispensator, an error pointed out by Round, *EHR* 29 (1914), 355.) The chronicle imposes this rapid succession: since we know that Robert fitz Thurstan held in 1086, Round inferred that Robert was dead because the chronicle says that William II gave Fawler to Thurstan, who had therefore to be Robert's son rather than father; this younger Thurstan died within a few years, leaving a son Hugh. Round's family-tree (*King's Serjeants*, 187) shows that this is two generations out of step with the descent from Anskill. If the writer of the chronicle assumed that Hugh followed his father Thurstan, it is perhaps more likely that Hugh fitz Thurstan was Robert fitz Thurstan's younger brother, but there is no other evidence to control that of the chronicle. Hugh fitz Thurstan does not appear as dispenser outside the archive of Abingdon abbey, nor is there evidence to show that he held Great Rollright. The chronicle has preserved a writ addressed to him ordering him to pay his geld as a tenant of the abbey (000, *Regesta* 576) and another allowing the abbot to take action against him for his failure to provide his knight-service (000, *Regesta* 789). Both were obtained by Abbot Faritius. We find that Hugh the king's dispenser still held 'Speresholt', by which we understand Fawler, in 1118 ('in secundo anno post obitum domni Faritii abbatis'), when he and his wife Helewis granted to the abbey a tithe of his goods from the manor (Stevenson, ii. 159; Hudson, ii. 224, § 230).

None the less, there is a case for inferring that Hugh or his heir lost Fawler before very long, for in the list of the abbey's knights' fees Fawler was held by Baldwin de Colombières (Hudson, ii. 324). In the same list, which combines Domesday tenants with some later changes, Gilbert de Colombières held Uffington together with Hardwell in Watchfield as two knight's fees; he is presumably the abbot's tenant Gilbert who

held Uffington in 1086 (*DB*, i. 59r; § 7. 37), and perhaps also the Gilbert with whom Anskill held Bayworth. Baldwin may have been Gilbert's son. It appears that the family that held Uffington and had suffered from Hugh's refusal to pay geld were in the end able to take over his tenancy. Fawler remained in the hands of the Colombières family into the thirteenth century (*VCH Berks*, iv. 40–41).

Hugh must have died soon after 1118. In the context of the vacancy at Abingdon after Faritius's death in 1117 and before the king returned to England in November 1120, we hear of Simon, King Henry's dispenser (*Stevenson*, ii. 166; *English Lawsuits*, 188, no. 222; *Hudson*, ii. 234, §§ 240–41), who obtained from the king the gift of the church at Marcham and other land belonging to the abbey, claiming it by hereditary right as a kinsman, *propinquus*, of William fitz Rainald, the son of Abbot Rainald. Simon surrendered these lands in exchange for other lands by agreement with Abbot Vincent (§ 241), witnessed, among others, by William of Seacourt, the son of Anskill who had once held Fawler. This Siimon was presumably son and heir of Hugh the dispenser. Elsewhere the chronicle tells us that William of Seacourt was married to the sister of Simon the dispenser (*Stevenson*, ii. 37; *Hudson*, ii. 54, § 45). Simon was still alive in 1130, for the pipe roll mentions Simon the dispenser, excused danegeld in Oxfordshire, presumably in respect of Great Rollright (*PR 31 Henry I*, 5). His son Thurstan fitz Simon supported the Empress Matilda in 1141 (notes on *Ste/13*). In 1153 this Thurstan was in dispute with the abbey, again over the church of Marcham (*Stevenson*, ii. 184; *Hudson*, ii. 238, § 243; *Ste/13*).

AUTHENTICITY: Manifestly not drafted in the usual form. None the less this act contains no unusual claims to make one doubt its substantance, and it is consistent with what is known about the king's court at Romsey in 1105. It should be noted that 000, *Regesta* 684 for Ely, the work of Bishop's scribe iii, has several unconventional features, including a heavy witness list, and it is possible that the same scribe drafted this act. Only one other original in his hand is known, 0000, *Regesta* 666, a writ for St Paul's London. Before drawing such an inference, however, it must be said that the act for Ely was witnessed by five chaplains as well as the chancellor, so there was no shortage of chancery draftsmen present on the occasion, and our text here is not loaded with details drawn from the beneficiary's archive such as to necessitate a beneficiary draft. Yet the drafting has an ecclesiastical character, for example in using 'dei gratia', in the elaborate witness list, and in recording Bishop Roger as 'elect'. The strong presence of courtiers in the witness-list may reflect the abbot's desire to ensure that Hugh the dispenser's agreement was witnessed by more senior officials at court. Two individual features merit comment. This appears to be the earliest Anglo-Norman royal act to refer to both homage and fealty (see also 000, *Regesta* 626 for Fécamp, and 000, *Regesta* 1280 for Miles of Gloucester). The adjective *serenissimus* is used of King Henry also in a deed of Hugh de Laval for Pontefract abbey, drawn up in diploma form and attested by the king in 1123 (000, *Regesta* 1400). The anomalies of drafting do not amount to a case for forgery, and the narrow hypothesis of drafting by scribe iii, whose hand is seen in only two originals over a short period, 1103 × 1105, is tempting but still leaves much unexplained.

00 Writ ordering Hugh fitz Thurstan to pay geld as he used to with Abbot Faritius. November 1100 × April 1116, perhaps February 1105 × c. 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152v ('Vt Hugo filius Turstini geldat') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 63v (no. 142) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 91 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 110 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 132–4 (§ 125) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 329; *Regesta* 576.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hugoni filio Turstini salutem. Precipio tibi ut ita geldas (*sic*) cum Faritio abbate de Abbandona sicut geldare solebas, et ita ne amodo terra sua sit esnamiata pro terra tua super X lib(rarum)<sup>a</sup> forisfacturam meam. Quod nisi cito feceris, Albericus de Berchesira te constringat per pecuniam tuam ut cito facias, et ita ne inde amplius clamorem audiam super X lib(ras) forisfacture. T(este) Roberto episcopo Linc'. Apud Wlurunehamptonam.

<sup>a</sup> lib. B ] libras C, *ungrammatically*

*Henry king of the English to Hugh fitz Thurstan greeting. I command you to pay geld with Faritius abbot of Abingdon as you used to pay geld, and on such terms that his land shall not be distrained hereafter for the sake of your land upon my forfeit of £10. If you do not quickly do it, Aubrey of Berkshire shall constrain you by your livestock so that you shall do it quickly, so that I shall hear no more complaint in this matter upon £10 of forfeit. Witness Robert bishop of Lincoln. At Wolverhampton.*

DATE: Formally datable only before King Henry left England for the last time while Abbot Faritius was alive, April 1116. Farrer dated the writ late in this range, c. 1110–16, and assigned it to Henry's Welsh expedition of 1114. His first term is not apparent. The editors of *Regesta* proposed an earlier date-range, 1100 × 1105, first, because, with reason, they took the mention of Aubrey of Berkshire, 'who appears in some early charters as joint-sheriff with Hugh de Bocland', as indicative of an early date (000, 000, 000, *Regesta* 651, 695, 707, all datable before 1107); they add, 'especially as the dispute with Hugh son of Turstin as to Sparsholt was settled in 1105', though it is not clear that this writ predates that settlement (000, *Regesta* 683); and on this basis the place-date led them to suggest July 1102, when Henry was on his way to or from Bridgnorth (Orderic, vi. 20–22). If the chronicle's account of the affair is accurate, a date after 000, *Regesta* 683 above, is implied. This leads to a date-range after the settlement of February 1105 and before Aubrey ceased to be undersheriff at an indeterminate date. If so, it would appear that the king passed through Wolverhampton in circumstances other than those already invoked on the evidence of narrative sources.

ADDRESS: Hugh fitz Thurstan, who was the object of the abbot's complaint.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln.

PLACE: Wolverhampton, Staffs, unusually far for the abbot to have gone to obtain a writ. See Date.

CONTEXT: Under an agreement reached in February 1105 (000, *Regesta* 683) Hugh fitz Thurstan, 'dispenser of the king's court', continued to hold Fawler in Sparsholt as the abbot's tenant, though the land had been given to his father unlawfully by King William II. This writ assumes that Hugh has in the past paid his geld as a tenant of the abbot, and that his default is leading to the abbey's suffering distraint. This more likely points to a date after the agreement of 1105, and it bears comparison with 000, *Regesta* 789, which shows that Hugh was in default over services at some point. If father and son had managed to hold Fawler unlawfully from before 1100 until 1105, in spite of Faritius's efforts in 1101, Hugh may have found it irksome to be treated as the abbot's tenant under the settlement represented by the act of February 1105 and sought to disregard his obligations in the expectation that his position at court would protect him from complaint. There is a case for thinking that he was eventually removed from the estate (see note on *Regesta* 683).

00 Writ ordering Abbot Faritius to do justice in the case of Hugh fitz Thurstan, if he continues to refuse his service in public burdens. January 1107 × February 1117

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152v ('Carta ut Hugo filius Turstini faciat quod terre sue pertinet') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 90–91 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 109–10 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 132 (§ 124) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 226a; *Regesta* 789.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Faritio abbati de Abbendona salutem. Si Hugo filius Turstini noluerit facere seruitium quod terre sue tibi pertinet in operatione parcorum et pontium et de omnibus aliis rebus, tunc precipio ut tuipse inde iusticiam facias ut omnia que facere debet faciat. T(este) canc(ellario). Apud Pontem Arcarum.

*Henry king of the English to Faritius abbot of Abingdon greeting. If Hugh fitz Thurstan shall not be willing to do the service that belongs to you for his land in the work of parks and bridges and of all other things, then I command that you yourself shall do justice in this matter so that he shall do all that he ought to do. Witness the chancellor. At Pont de l'Arche.*

DATE: After the appointment of Ranulf as chancellor, early 1107; before the death of Abbot Faritius, 23 February 1117.

ADDRESS: Abbot Faritius as plaintiff, authorizing him to do justice upon the defendant.

WITNESS: Ranulf, as chancellor. No previous chancellor attests by this formula.

PLACE: Pont de l'Arche, Normandy, the only extant act of Henry I so dated.

CONTEXT: For the background to Hugh fitz Thurstan's position as the abbot's tenant in Fawler, see 000, *Regesta* 683, and the context note there. This writ and 000, *Regesta* 576, both show that he continued to be a difficult tenant. Faritius's exasperation must have been considerable to petition the king in Normandy on a matter that can hardly have been urgent. The list of the abbey's tenants by knight-service shows that Hugh, who died 1118 × 1120, or his heir Simon eventually lost Fawler to Baldwin de Colombières, whose family had held the neighbouring abbey-manor of Uffington in 1086 (Hudson, ii. 324).

00 Writ ordering the sheriff of Berkshire and Godric to stay the suit against the church of Abingdon in the matter of a hedge at Winkfield. August 1100 × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152r ('Carta de Winekefeld') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140v [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 33r ('De terra de Wickefeld', no. xij, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 77v [E].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 48v (no. 82) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 87 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 91 [from Stevenson]; *English Lawsuits*, 138 (no. 171) [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 55 (L81, C176) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 128 (§ 117) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 144; *Regesta* 736.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Godrico et baronibus de Berch(escira) francis et anglis salutem. Volo et precipio ut ecclesia sancte Marie de Abbendona habeat et teneat terram suam de Winicfelda cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus ita bene et honorifice et in firma pace sicut melius eam tenuit tempore patris et fratris mei. Et precipio ut calumpnia quam God(ricus)<sup>a</sup> prepositus de Windresores super eam terram facit de haia omnino et perpetualiter remaneat. T(estibus) Rogero Big(od) et Grimaldo medico. Apud Norhamtonam.

<sup>a</sup> Godefridus D

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and Godric and the barons of Berkshire French and English greeting. I will and command that the church of St Mary of Abingdon shall have and hold its land of Winkfield with everything pertaining to it as well and honourably and in firm peace as it well held it in my father's time and my brother's. And I command that the claim which God(ric) reeve of Windsor makes upon that land concerning a hedge shall entirely and for ever be stayed. Witness Roger Bigod and Grimaldus the physician. At Northampton.*

DATE: Before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Berkshire. Godric in the address is the same as 'God' prepositus de Windresores', mentioned in the body of the text; he is addressed as complainant in the suit that is to be stayed.

WITNESS: Roger Bigod; Grimaldus the physician.

PLACE: Northampton. Farrer 142a–145 and *Regesta* 736–740 formed a cluster of acts around the king's meeting with his brother Robert at Northampton, 'before spring' in 1106; apart from the letter to Anselm (00, *Regesta* 737), none of the others can be strongly associated with that occasion.

CONTEXT: Winkfield, five miles south-west of Windsor castle across Windsor forest, had belonged to the abbey since before the Conquest (S 482; Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 35). Its 10 hides in 1066 were reduced to 3½ hides in 1086, in part perhaps beneficial assessment but in part because, as the survey says, 'de hac terra sunt iiij hide in foresta regis' (*DB*, i. 59r; § 7. 31). This alienation is discussed by the chronicler (Stevenson, ii. 7; Hudson, ii. 8–10, § 6), who there also looks ahead to the question of two woods taken from the abbey by the castellan of Windsor but eventually restored (W2/000, *Regesta* 391; Stevenson, ii. 29–30, 132; Hudson, ii. 40–42, 192–4, §§ 33–5, 189). The present writ concerns a claim against the abbey, brought in the shire court of Berkshire, by Godric, reeve of Windsor; his position among royal officials at Windsor is not apparent. The fact that the abbot obtained a writ to the shire court to stay the action may suggest that it was brought by Godric in his own interest rather than the king's. A much later dispute between the abbey and the tenants of Winkfield reveals that the latter sought to identify themselves with the Crown's estates centred on Windsor rather than with the abbey (G. D. G. Hall, 'The abbot of Abingdon and the tenants of Winkfield', *Medium Aevum* 28 (1959), 91–5).

00 Writ-charter addressed to the shire court of Oxfordshire confirming the gift by Drogo des Andelys to the church of Abingdon of one hide of land at Wormsley.  
November 1100 × July 1106

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fols. 148v–149r ('De Wdemundeslea', 'Carta regis de eadem terra') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 136v [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38r ('De quadam terra que uocatur Wodemundesl(eya)', no. xlj, omits witnesses) [D], fol. 86r (Earl Richard's deed); Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 117r [E].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 68 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 69 (L110, C316), 165–6 (L238, Earl Richard's deed) (English abstracts) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 100 (§ 77) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 122; *Regesta* 693.

His diebus nobiliorum quidam militum de Nigelli de Oilli feudo tenentium, Droco nomine, egritudine captus, monasterium ad hoc sese contulit, et religionis habitum, abbate Faritio tribuente, illic induit et ipse quamdiu superuixit infra claustrum septa deguit. Qui, ut eius inter benefactorum monasterii specialius apud posteros haberetur memoria, suis de possessionibus aliquid beneficii inibi curauit conferre. Dedit itaque fratrum usibus unam hidam in loco qui dicitur Wdamundaslea, de uilla Westuna, liberam quidem et quietam omnium quarumlibet questionum, uel geldorum, uel militaris exactionis, quanquam ad ipsam diuerse dominationes diuerso respectu intenderent. Siquidem feudi comitis Cestrensis deputatur, de quo tunc temporis Nigellus de Oilli eandem hidam simul cum nonnullis aliis possessionibus, et per Nigellum Droco, tenebat. Sed Drocone monachatum subeunte, Rogerus filius Radulfi, filiam ipsius in coniugium ducens, quarumlibet ille rerum potiebatur dum seculo militaret summam ipse adipiscitur. Qui, quoniam ingenio callebat, Nigelli de Oilli consensum sibi traduxit, quatinus de comite in capite (ut uulgo loquatur) teneret, homo ipse comitis effectus. Dum ergo Nigelli iuris predicta terra fuisset, quicquid Droco de ea disposuit libenter fieri annuit, hocque modo suis litteris auctorizauit:

Ego Nigellus de Oilli concedo et auctorizo deo et sancte Marie et monachis in Abendonensi ecclesia in perpetuum habendam unam hidam in Oxenefortscira, in loco qui dicitur Wdemundelai, quam Droco de Andelai concessit eidem ecclesie licentia mea; ita solidam (*sic*) et quietam concedo sicut idem Droco melius unquam habuit tempore fratris mei Roberti et meo. Testibus Faritio abbate et Rogero de Casneio et Luello de Peri et Aedrico homine eiusdem Droconis.

Consequenter rex quoque idem subscribens, ita confirmauit:

Henricus rex Anglorum Rotberto Lincolniensi episcopo et Willelmo uicecomiti de Oxenefortscira et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis salutem. Sciatis me concessisse deo et

sancte Marie in Abbendonensi ecclesia et Faritio abbati unam hidam terre in Westuna in loco qui dicitur Wdemundeslea quam Droco de Andeleio dedit eidem ecclesie, et Nigellus dominus eius concessit, ita solutam (*sic*) et quietam concedo predicte ecclesie sicut unquam melius fuit tempore patris et fratris mei. T(estibus) Mathilde regina et Goisfredo Peccatum. Apud Ailesb(er)iam.

Comes autem Cestrensis Ricardus, cum sua matre et melioribus suorum baronum secum, postea Abbendoniam in uilla hospicio receptus, abbate Faritio interpellante, et comitissa, matre scilicet eiusdem comitis, et eis qui simul aderant cunctis id fauentibus et consultantibus, quicquid de predicta terra Wdemundeslea actitatum extitit, comes ipse benefactum extulit, et suo descripto roborauit. Quod descriptum, sigillo quidem matris signari constitit; nondum enim militari baltheo cinctus, materno sigillo littere quolibet ab eo directe includebantur. Hac de re quod eo annotatur, comitisse potius quam comitis sigillo signatur. Cuius forma hec fuit.

*Carta comitis Cestrensis de eadem terra.*

Ricardus Cestrensis comes et Ermentrudis comitissa mater eius Nigello de Oilli et Rogero filio Radulfi et omnibus baronibus de Oxenefordscira salutem et amicitiam. Sciatis quia, pro amore dei et anima patris mei et remissione nostrorum peccatorum, concedimus hidam illam quam Droco de Andeleia dedit ecclesie Abbendonensi, que est in loco qui dicitur Wdemundeslai. Nos eidem ecclesie concedimus et auctorizamus perpetuo habendam, solidam (*sic*) et quietam ab omni nostro seruitio. Et Rogerus filius Radulfi et successores eius sint quieti in nostro seruitio, quantum ad illam hidam pertinet. Et defendimus ut nullo modo Rogerus, uel alius per eum, inquietet habitantes in terra illa. Hoc autem fecimus et testimonio nostrorum baronum, scilicet Willelmi filii Nigelli, et Hugonis filii Normanni, et Ricardi Balaste, et Willelmi filii Anskitilli, et Ricardi filii Nigelli, et domni Goisfridi capellani, et aliorum. Hoc actum est in sexto anno regni Henrici regis, in mense Maio, in die Pentecostes.

Ista ergo comitis hinc regi intimata concessio, eius edicto et auctoritate confirmatur, uti in carta est uidere que compilationem rerum exquisitarum per abbatem Faritium continet.

*In those days a man named Drogo, one of the more important knights holding in fee of Nigel d'Oilly, was taken ill. He surrendered himself to this monastery and, with Abbot Faritius's support, put on the habit of religion here, remaining within the monastery for the remainder of his life. He took care to confer something from his possessions on the monastery, so that his memory should be preserved as one of the benefactors of the abbey. For this reason he gave to the use of the brethren one hide at a place called Wormsley, in the vill of Weston, free and quit of all demands or gelds or knight-service, although different lordships had claims on that land in different ways. For it was part of the fee of the earl of Chester, of whom at that time Nigel d'Oilly held that hide along with other property, and Drogo held it of Nigel. When Drogo became a monk, Roger fitz Ralf obtained everything that Drogo had possessed while he was a knight and a layman, for he married Drogo's daughter. Roger was an astute man who obtained the consent of Nigel d'Oilly that he might hold (as the saying is) in chief of the earl and so became the earl's man. While the foresaid land had been Nigel's in law, he freely allowed that whatever Drogo decided about it should happen, and in this way he gave his authority in this document:*

*I Nigel grant and allow to God and St Mary and to the monks in the church of Abingdon to have for ever one hide in Oxfordshire in a place called Wormsley, which Drogo des Andelys granted to the same church by my permission. I grant this as whole and quit as Drogo himself ever well had it in my brother Robert's time and mine. Witness Abbot Faritius and Roger de Chesney and Lovell of Perry and Eadric Drogo's man.*

*Thereafter the king also put his name to this in this confirmation:*

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and William sheriff of Oxfordshire and all his barons French and English greeting. Know that I have granted to God and St Mary in the church of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius one hide of land at Weston in the place called Wormsley which Drogo des Andelys gave to the same church, and Nigel his lord granted it, as absolved and quit I grant to the foresaid church as ever it well was in my father's time and my brother's. Witness Queen Matilda and Geoffrey Peche. At Aylesbury.*

*The earl of Chester.*

*Richard, together with his mother and the more important of his barons was at a later date received in lodgings in the town at Abingdon. Abbot Faritius made his request, and with the approval of the countess, that is the earl's mother, with all those who were present to consider the matter, the earl himself approved whatever had been done concerning Wormsley and confirmed it in writing. It was decided that the document should be sealed with the seal of his mother, for the earl was not yet girt with the military belt. For this reason what was written down was sealed with the countess's seal rather than the earl's, whose text is this:*

*Richard earl of Chester and Countess Ermintrude his mother to Nigel d'Oilly and Roger fitz Ralf and the barons of Oxfordshire greeting and friendship. Know that, for the love of God and the soul of my father and the remission of our sins, we grant the hide in the place called Wormsley which Drogo des Andelys gave to the church of*

*Abingdon. We grant and authorize it to the same church to have for ever, whole and quit from all service due to us. And Roger fitz Ralf and his successors shall be quit in our service as much as pertains to that hide. And we forbid that in any way Roger or anyone through him shall disturb those dwelling on that land. We have done this by the witness of our barons, namely William fitz Nigel and Hugh fitz Norman and Richard Balaste and William fitz Ansketill and Richard fitz Nigel and Dom Geoffrey the chaplain and others. This was done in the sixth year of the reign of King Henry in the month of May at Whitsuntide.*

*This grant by the earl was mentioned after this to the king, and it was confirmed by his command and authority, as one can see in the charter that brings together the lands obtained by Abbot Faritius.*

DATE: The formal date-range is after the king's marriage, 11 November 1100, and before William of Oxford ceased to be sheriff; it must be earlier than 000, *Regesta* 758, which may be as late as July 1106. The deed of the earl of Chester, quoted by the chronicle, is dated to 13 May 1106, which provides a guide to the dating of the business.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Queen Matilda; Geoffrey Peche.

PLACE: Aylesbury, Bucks.

CONTEXT: This writ-charter, confirming Drogo's gift of one hide of land to the abbey, and the following writ, exempting this land from geld, are likely to belong closely together, though they were not dated on the same occasion. The chronicler has woven them into a narrative along with deeds of confirmation by Drogo's immediate lord Nigel d'Oilly and, seemingly somewhat later, the chief lord of the fee Earl Richard of Chester, and he has also made a connexion with a clause in a later royal confirmation (000 § 6, *Regesta* 1092). Another act of King Henry, confirming gifts by the earls of Chester (000, not in *Regesta*), was not used by the chronicler but was preserved by the cartularies. The story is full of interest, but there is again the question as to whether the narrative setting is based entirely on the documents.

Drogo des Andelys must be identified with Drogo, tenant of Robert d'Oilly, constable of Oxford, who in 1086 held 10 hides of Robert at Shirburn (Oxon) and 7½ hides at Hardwick (Oxon), in the latter case following an exchange with Walter Giffard (*DB*, i. 158r; Oxon §§ 28. 9, 16). The chronicle provides the evidence further to identify Robert, tenant of the earl of Chester with Robert d'Oilly; he held 9 hides at South Weston, 8 hides at Tackley, and 5 hides at Ardley as tenant of the earl, and Robert's subtenant at Ardley was Drogo, presumably the same Drogo des Andelys. Robert d'Oilly died in September 1091 or 1092 and was buried in the chapter house at Abingdon, as we learn from an addition to the chronicle in MS C (Hudson, ii. 330). His estates went to his brother Nigel d'Oilly, who figures in this story as Drogo's mesne lord. Domesday Book does not clarify the status of the one hide of land at Wormsley, which the chronicle says was part of the vill of (South) Weston, held in 1086 by Robert d'Oilly of Earl Hugh of Chester and now by Nigel d'Oilly of Earl Richard.

The story has two central events. Drogo gave the one hide of Wormsley to the abbey with the consent of Nigel d'Oilly; he became a monk of Abingdon and died, leaving his daughter as heiress, and his son in law Roger fitz Ralf was in possession by the time that a written confirmation was obtained on 13 May 1106 from the young Earl

Richard. The documents do not specify that the gift was made close to the point of his entering the abbey before his death, but it is implied by the chronicler. The deeds of Nigel d'Oilly and Earl Richard not merely consent to the gift but they ensure that the land is held by the abbey without any secular services. A further act obtained from King Henry exempts this land from geld (000, *Regesta* 758). The chronicler, however, further tells us that Roger fitz Ralf was able to detach himself from the services he owed to Nigel d'Oilly in order to hold directly of the earl of Chester. Nothing in the documents quoted by the chronicler actually shows this to be the case, although Roger fitz Ralf appears to be the ancestor of the family that later held South Weston and Ardley of the earls of Chester (Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii. 244–5).

The writer is imprecise about when exactly Drogo gave the land to the monks, but the first documents give no hint that he was giving up the world. Drogo and Abbot Faritius obtained a deed of consent and confirmation from Nigel d'Oilly, witnessed by the abbot, Roger de Chesney and Lovell of Perry, whom we may take for Nigel's men, and Drogo's man Eadric. Elsewhere the chronicler has preserved a deed of Nigel d'Oilly concerning Abbeffield (Stevenson, ii. 74; Hudson, ii. 110, § 85; see 000, *Regesta* 700), whose witnesses include Roger de Chesney, Roger fitz Ralf, and Lovell of Bray ('Luelli de Braio'). Lovell of Bray, surely the same as Lovell of Perry, was still alive in 1130 (*PR 31 Henry I*, 101); Hudson, ii. 111n, notes his occurrences in other documents.

In his deed Nigel consents that the land should be held by Abingdon abbey 'ita solidam (*sic*) et quietam concedo sicut idem Droco melius unquam habuit tempore fratris mei Roberti et meo'; the king's writ-charter follows this, 'ita solutam (*sic*) et quietam concedo predictae ecclesie sicut unquam melius fuit tempore patris et fratris mei'. The change from 'solidam et quietam' to 'solutam et quietam' may reflect the use of an abbreviation in the original deed; the expansion of *sol'* is very often uncertain. The sense, however, is not the same. Nigel's deed presumably intended to allow the abbey to hold the land quit of such secular services as were due to him; but the wording, and especially as adapted in the king's writ-charter, implies exemptions dating back to the time of Robert d'Oilly and William I; and when Abbot Faritius obtained a writ to confirm that Wormsley owed no geld, the writ-charter influenced its wording as if this hide had been exempt from geld since William I's time (000, *Regesta* 758, and note there).

As we know from Domesday Book, Nigel himself held this land of the earl of Chester. The chronicler had an act in the name of Richard, the young earl, and his mother Countess Ermintrude, which confirmed that the earl allowed the gift and exempted the church as beneficiary from services due to himself ('solidam (*sic*) et quietam ab omni nostro seruicio'). The earl's act also allows that Roger fitz Ralf and his successors should be 'quieti in nostro seruicio quantum ad illam hidam pertinet'; in other words, the liability not conveyed with the land is absorbed by the chief lord of the fee instead of falling on the rest of Roger's estate. This document, copied into the chronicle, is dated at Whitsun, 13 May 1106 (§§ 77–8; *Ch. Chester*, 12–13, no. 6), when the king was at Salisbury. The witnesses to the earl's act are barons of his honour, but they do not provide a clue as to whether the chronicler is correct in reporting that the document was obtained when the young earl and his mother were lodged in the town at Abingdon. It is of considerable interest that we learn that the act was sealed with the countess's seal, presumably still attached to the document when copied by the chronicler. At a later date Abbot Faritius obtained a royal confirmation of a gift made

by Earl Hugh of Chester and this one by Earl Richard (000), which in turn was used in a beneficiary-drafted confirmation at Abingdon (000 § 6, *Regesta* 1092).

The chronicler says that Drogo gave this land 'liberam quidem et quietam omnium quarumlibet questionum, uel geldorum, uel militaris exactionis, quanquam ad ipsam diuerse dominationes diuerso respectu intenderent'. It is surely unlikely that this derives from a deed in Drogo's name that he did not copy. Rather, it appears to express the desire that secular obligations on the land should not be passed on to the church, a result that was accomplished only with the consent both of Nigel d'Oilly and of the earl of Chester.

00 Writ ordering the sheriff of Oxfordshire not to demand geld or royal customs from the land which Drogo des Andelys gave to the church of Abingdon. October 1102 × July 1106

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 149r ('Littere regis') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 137r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 70 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 104 (§ 80) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 116; *Regesta* 758.

Inde non multo post, census qui geldum dicitur per comitatum Oxenefordsciræ passim a burgensibus et uillanis solutio per officiales huic negotio deputatos, uti alias ita ab incolis predictæ terre exigitur. Quod ipse non passus, rem regi innotuit, ratiocinando quod ab antiquo tempore usu consuetudinario eadem terra non debeat ulli huiusmodi exactioni subici. Quare rex uicecomiti eiusdem comitatus inde litteras misit, id continentis.

Henricus rex Anglorum Willelmo uicecomiti de Oxenefordscira salutem. Precipio tibi ut illa hida quam Droco de Andelei dedit sancte Marie de Abbendona ita sit quieta de hoc geldo et de omnibus consuetudinibus sicut melius fuit quieta in tempore patris mei et fratris mei. Et nichil aliud aduersum eam requiras. T(estibus) Waldrio (*sic*) cancell(ario) et Grimaldo medico. Apud Romesi.

*De eadem terra.* Adhuc, ad posterorum cautelam, quiddam de eodem loco dignum putauimus subnectendum. Quidam cupide mentis homines illius terre portione frui nitebantur. Quod cuidam plurimum callenti

ingenio actitandum commisere, cui nomen Benedictus, qui causis comitis consulendis sepius interesse solebat. Ille dum promitteret quod ad finem propositum eorum, uti rebatur, deduceret, in spe arrecti expectabant rei exitum. Machinari itaque cepit, ut primo insueta a loco exigerentur, deinde, cum exacta non redderentur, queque illic reperta forent abducerentur. Et hec quidem abbatis Faritii post obitum contigerunt. Talia itaque cum sepius ingererentur, eorum qui publicam monasterii rem gubernabant consultu, comitis ad curiam unus de ecclesie seruiantibus mittitur, <cui><sup>a</sup> carta secum ferenda assignatur, ipsiusque comitis auctoritatem libertatis totius de illa terra exactionis protestatur. Legatus ergo, itinere confecto, curiam adire sibi imperatam intrat, coram arbitrum maioribus de causa sibi dicendi imposita conqueritur, cartam libertatis pro attestatione rerum dictarum ad medium effert. Aderat is<sup>b</sup> de quo supra intulimus, dictorum et responsorum finem opperiens. Iamque communi in audientia litteris recitatis, rogat ille sibi easdem porrigi, parumper adhuc percepturus earum intellectum. Quibus porrectis, sinum mox in suum inuoluit. Quo breuigerulus uiso, miratus factum, stupidus primo hesit. Tum deinde cum repeteret porrectum, nil ab eodem inuasore rehabuit nisi risum. At assidentes, quibus iustum placebat, pro hoc indignari, alii uero ad contrarium illecti cachinnari. Ita infecto negotio, legatus ille cum tali detrimento domum reuertitur, labore tristiciaque confectus. Dei autem miseratio hanc ipsam fortunam, et si ad tempus quidem aliquantisper contrariam, postmodum tamen uertit in prosperam. Illum itaque Benedictum predictum dignatio diuina priuat amicitia comitis, huncque expellit qui sic quandoque latorem scripti fefellit, uellet nolletue, relictis. Pressus uero sub fasce ruine, ultio diuina penas eidem ingessit. Monachique, deum precibus stimulantes, scripta, que pridem perdididerant, receperunt. Caueant ergo omnes periuri fraudes, caueantque tali legato mittere breue fraudis amico.

<sup>a</sup> cui conj. Stevenson ] cum BC      <sup>b</sup> is conj. Stevenson ] his BC; cf. his abbas in § 168

*Not long after that, payment of the tax called geld was demanded throughout Oxfordshire from burgesses and villagers by officials assigned to this business, and just as it was demanded elsewhere, so it was demanded from the inhabitants of this land. Faritius would not allow this. He made the matter known to the king, arguing that by custom from ancient time that land was not liable to be subject to this tax. For this reason the king sent letters to the sheriff of the shire concerning this matter, as follows:*

*Henry king of the English to William sheriff of Oxfordshire greeting. I command you that the hide which Drogo des Andelys gave to St Mary of Abingdon shall be as quit of this geld and of all customs as it was well quit in my father's time and my brother's.*

*And you shall make no other demand against it. Witness Waldric the chancellor and Grimaldus the physician. At Romsey.*

*Further, as a warning to those who come after us, we have thought it right to subjoin something more about this property. Some men of covetous mind attempted to benefit from a part of that land. They entrusted the task of achieving this to a man of very crafty mind named Benedict, who was very often involved in advising the earl on matters of business. When he promised that he would bring their purpose to a conclusion, as it was thought, they awaited the outcome of the business with their hopes raised. And so he began to plot, first that unaccustomed dues were demanded from the place, then that, when these demands were not rendered, whatever might be found there would be seized. All this came about after Abbot Faritius's death. Such attempts were made rather often, and so, by the advice of those who had custody of the monastery on behalf of the public fisc, one of the servants of the abbey was sent to the court of the earl, the charter is entrusted to him to take with him, which declares the authority of the earl as to the freedom of all exaction from that land. The messenger, therefore, having made his journey, enters the court he was commanded to enter, he makes the complaint he was sent to make before the more important of the judgement-finders, he produces in front of everyone the charter of liberty to prove the matter spoken of. The man we mentioned above was present, awaiting the end of speeches and answers, and when the charter had been read out in everyone's hearing he asks that it be handed to him so that he could further study its meaning for a moment. When the charter was handed to him, he quickly slid it into his bosom. When the messenger saw this, he marvelled at what had happened. At first baffled he did not move. Then when he sought the return of the charter, he got no answer but a laugh from the usurper. Some of those present, those who loved justice, were indignant at this, but others laughed, enticed by its opposite. And so with his business unfinished, the messenger weary with effort and dismay returned home without the charter. But even if fortune had been adverse for a little while, the mercy of God later changed it into a favourable outcome. God deigned to deprive the foresaid Benedict of the earl's friendship and drove him out who had once so tricked the bearer of the charter, left behind against his will. The man was punished with ruin and divine vengeance heaped pains upon him. The monks, however, urging God with their prayers, recovered the charter that they had lost. Let all therefore beware the deceptions of a perjurer and beware of sending a letter by such a messenger to the friend of fraud.*

DATE: While Waldric was chancellor, from Michaelmas 1102 to late in 1106; before the king left England in July 1106. From the place-date Farrer made a connexion with 000 above, Farrer 114, *Regesta* 683, and 000, Farrer 115, *Regesta* 684 for Ely, proposing a date in February–March 1105. The editors of *Regesta*, however, noted that the act must postdate Drogo's gift of the land at Weston near Wormsley (000, *Regesta* 693). That gift and the king's confirmation are not closely dated, but the Abingdon narrative places this writ after Drogo's gift had received confirmation from Earl Richard of Chester, whose act is dated at Whitsun 1106. They therefore propose a date-range 13 May × 31 July 1106; this puts too much trust in the sequence in the chronicle.

ADDRESS: William, sheriff of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Waldric, as chancellor; Grimaldus the physician. Both were with the king at Romsey in 1105

PLACE: Romsey, Hants.

CONTEXT: Concerning the land at Wormsley and its gift by Drogo des Andelys, see the notes on 000. The present writ is on the face of it the uncomplicated result of a request by Abbot Faritius that this newly-acquired land should be exempt from geld. The only difficulty is that the writ expressly says that the land is to be exempt 'de hoc geldo et de omnibus consuetudinibus sicut melius fuit quieta in tempore patris mei et fratris mei'. The words 'de hoc geldo' show that the writ was obtained at a time when a geld was due. What taxes and customs it had paid in the past is never investigated, yet the king appears to say that it had been quit of all customs in times past. One would rather expect the writ to say that the land is to be quit just as other lands held by the abbey are quit; in other words that the geldable status of the land is changed. But the king's writ reflects the wording of his confirmation of the gift (000, *Regesta* 693), 'as absolved and quit I grant to the foresaid church as ever it well was in my father's time and my brother's', which says nothing about changing the status of the land, merely affirming that it will continue to have the same exemptions as previously. Is it possible that the draftsmen used the wrong form of words and that no one noticed?

The long coda to the story (§ 81; *English Lawsuits*, 183–4, no. 217) tells how, after Faritius's death, greedy officials of the earl's honour with the aid of an advocate named Benedict set about trying to secure payments from this land, though the earl's deed was explicit that no service was to be retained. The abbot is said to have sent what is referred to as *carta libertatis* and appealed to the earl's authority; I infer, therefore, that the charter in the story was Earl Richard's deed of 1106 and not the king's writ. This episode must be dated between the death of Abbot Faritius in 1117 and Earl Richard's departure for Normandy, presumably with William Ætheling in 1119; both were drowned on their return journey in November 1120.

00 Act addressed to all sworn men granting to Abbot Faritius to hold Shippon (Berks), restored by Earl Hugh of Chester, and Wormsley (Bucks), granted by Earl Richard of Chester, quit of geld and all service. May 1106 × September 1115

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38v ('De uilla que uocatur Schupene et de predicta hida in Wodemund(esleya)', no. xlij, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 85r [E].

PRINTED: Lambrick & Slade, ii. 193–4 (C210, L111) [from E].

CALENDAR: Not in *Regesta*.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um omnibus fidelibus suis francis et anglis salutem. Sciatis me concessisse Faritio<sup>a</sup> abbati et omnibus successoribus suis et monachis ecclesie de Abbend' uillam de Shepene cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus quam Hugo

comes Cestrie eidem ecclesie reddidit perpetuo tenendam de omnibus geldis et placitis et de omni seculari seruicio quietam. Et preterea unam hidam in Weston' in loco qui dicitur Wdesmundesleya quam Droco<sup>b</sup> de Andeleyo dedit predictae ecclesie et comes Ricardus de Cestria fecit quietam de omni suo seruicio pro anima patris sui. Testibus Rogero episcopo Sar' et Willelmo Albeneye. Apud Wintoniam.

<sup>a</sup> Pharicio DE

<sup>b</sup> Drogo D

*Henry king of the English to all his sworn men French and English greeting. Know that I have granted to Abbot Faritius and all his successors and to the monks of the church of Abingdon the vill of Shippon with everything pertaining to it which Hugh earl of Chester restored to the same church to hold forever quit of all geld and pleas and of all secular service. And in addition one hide in Weston in the place called Wormsley which Drogo des Andelys gave to the foresaid church and which Earl Richard of Chester acquitted of all service to him for the soul of his father. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and William d'Aubigny. At Winchester.*

DATE: After Earl Richard's confirmation of the gift of Wormsley, 13 May 1106 (see 000, *Regesta* 758); before the confirmation of Abbot Faritius's acquisitions, which follows the wording of the present act (000, *Regesta* 1092), 1114–1115.

ADDRESS: Open address to the king's sworn men, a distinctly unusual formulation, but there is no reason to suspect abbreviation in the cartulary.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury; William d'Aubigny (probably *pincerna*).

PLACE: Winchester.

CONTEXT: The chronicle elsewhere includes a narrative concerning Earl Hugh's restoring of Shippon (Berks) to the community on 31 March 1090, in the time of Abbot Rainald, and copies out the earl's deed (Stevenson, ii. 19–20; Hudson, ii. 24–6, §§ 23–4; Barraclough, *Ch. Chester*, 2, no. 2). It also provides a narrative concerning Wormsley with the text of Earl Richard's deed, including King Henry's confirmation of the gift of Wormsley by Drogo des Andelys and a further writ for Abbot Faritius (000–00, *Regesta* 693, 758). The present act confirms the exemption from geld, suit of court, and other services. It is not apparent why there should have been any need for a confirmation of this kind, neither particular to a new transaction, nor general, but focused on gifts associated with two earls of Chester at different dates. None the less, this act was used in a beneficiary-drafted confirmation in 1114–15, which follows the wording of the present text, 'Et unam hidam in Westona in loco qui dicitur Wdemundesleia quam Droco de Andeleia dedit ecclesie, et comes Ricardus de Cestra fecit quietam de omni seruitio suo pro anima patris sui' (000 § 6, *Regesta* 1092). Its omission from the Abingdon history is surprising, but the act must have been available in the archive.

00 Writ of Queen Matilda ordering the shire court of Buckinghamshire to see that her gift of Robert fitz Hervey and his land to the church of Abingdon is carried out. Perhaps August × September 1106

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 154r ('De terra Roberti filii Heruei', 'Carta regine de eadem terra') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 143r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 39r ('De terra de Wirettesbiria', no. xlvij, omits witnesses) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 98–9 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 71–2 (L116) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 144 (§ 141) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 102; *Regesta* 674.

Rege in Normannia degente, Mathildis regina mensis Augusti diebus per Abbendoniam transiens, imminente solempni die Assumptionis Celi Regine, illuc suum ea de causa iter deflexit. Sacris itaque misteriis pro tanti festi competentia annisu celebratis, abbate uero Faritio, ut tantam decuerat hospitam quam in his exceperat, affabiliter et ubertim in officiis sese exhibente humanitatis, regina, eadem abbatis exoratu, Robertum quendam filium Heruei, in uicino calcete Colebrocensis degentem, cum tota ipsius terra quam tunc tenebat sancte Marie in loco Abbendonensi perpetue dominationi contulit, domino eiusdem uiri id fieri concedente, simili quidem uocabulo Roberto scilicet, sed cognomine diuerso, id est Gernone, subinferentibus illius filiis idem sibi ualde placuisse, Aluredo uidelicet et Mathathia, cum nepotibus Goisfredo, Fulcone, et Pagano. Preterea ad hoc et curtillagium adiectum est terre predicti Roberti, in quo commanebat Rannulfus, eiusdem Roberti germanus, non ab inuicem ipsi longe dispositi mansionibus. Et quidem ipsa regine donatio ecclesie impendi ualde erat necessaria. Nam iter quod ad urbem Lundoniam ab Abbendoniam porrectum est, pro milium numerositate interpositorum, itinerantibus laboriosum peragi uidebatur, siquidem deerat propria mansio, ubi apte hospitari potuisset, huius itineris in medio. Locus autem predictus quindecim miliaribus ab urbe Lundonia distans, hospitandi non minimam prebet oportunitatem, cum sit illic siluarum, pratorum, mercimoniorumque copia. De hac itaque regine donatione, eiusdem littere ad comprouinciales publicarum administrationum exactores directe fuere, hunc modum continentes.

Mathildis Angl(orum)<sup>a</sup> regina Rotberto Linc(olie) episcopo et Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et omnibus baronibus francis et

anglis de Buchingehamscira<sup>b</sup> salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse deo et ecclesie sancte Marie de Abbendona Rotbertum filium Heruei cum tota terra sua in elemosina, quia Rotbertus Gernon ita dedit mihi. Et uolo et precipio ut ipsa ecclesia de Abbendona ita bene et honorifice et quiete teneat terram illam cum prato et pastura et nemore et cum omnibus consuetudinibus que ad illam terram pertinebant, uel sicut melius et quietius predicta abbatia tenet alias suas terras quas quietius tenet. Et uidete ne inde clamorem amplius audiam. T(estibus) Rogero de Curcellis et Rotberto Malet et Odone Moire. Apud Lundon(iam).

<sup>a</sup> Angl(orum) D Anglorum BC

<sup>b</sup> Berchesira D

*While the king was in Normandy, Queen Matilda was passing through Abingdon during the month of August; she had diverted her journey there because the solemn feast of the Assumption of the Queen of Heaven was approaching. When the sacred mysteries had been celebrated with an effort in proportion to so great a festival, Abbot Faritius made a display of friendliness and generosity in the duties of hospitality, as was appropriate to such an important guest as he had received on this occasion. The queen, by the abbot's request, gave into the perpetual lordship of St Mary in the church of Abingdon a man named Robert fitz Hervey who lived near the causeway at Colnbrook together with all the land that he held at that time; and that man's lord, also named Robert but with a different surname, Gernon, gave his consent that this should be done and his sons indicated that this was very pleasing to them, namely Alfred and Matthew, together with his nephews Geoffrey, Fulk, and Pain. Moreover there was joined to this a curtilage of the land of the foresaid Robert [sc. fitz Hervey] in which lived Ranulf, brother of the same Robert, for the two brothers occupied dwelling-places not far from one another. This gift by the queen served a purpose very necessary to the church, for the road that stretched from Abingdon to London was laborious to travellers on account of the distance, because the abbey lacked its own lodging where it would be possible to be suitably lodged in the middle of the journey. The land mentioned, fifteen miles from London, provides an excellent place for a lodging since it is well supplied with wood and grazing and other commodities. Concerning this gift the queen's letters were addressed to those responsible for public business in the county, in these words:*

*Matilda queen of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and Hugh of Buckland and all barons French and English of Buckinghamshire greeting. Know that I have given and granted to God and the church of St Mary of Abingdon Robert fitz Hervey and all his land in alms, because Robert Gernon so gave him to me. And I will and command that the church of Abingdon shall well and honourably and quietly hold that land with meadow and grazing and wood and with all customs that pertain to that land, or as well and quietly as the foresaid abbey holds its other lands that it holds quietly. And see*

*that I shall hear no more complaint in this matter. Witness Roger de Courseulles and Robert Malet and Odo Moire. At London.*

DATE: Before the king's confirmation of the gift, 000, *Regesta* 676, which is best dated towards the end of 1106. The same gift was included with several others in a larger confirmation, 2 June 1107 (000, *Regesta* 813, 816).

Farrer proposed 1104 or 1106, the years in which the king was in Normandy in August. The editors of *Regesta* favoured the earlier date on the grounds that the act must predate the gift of a house at Colnbrook by Miles Crispin, dated to the seventh year of the reign and therefore after 5 August 1106 (000, *Regesta* 816). The reasoning is flawed, for this does not exclude a date in August 1106. If this act is dated after the feast of the Assumption, 15 August 1106, it is still likely that it precedes Miles Crispin's gift, which was included with this gift in the king's confirmation on 2 June 1107 (000, *Regesta* 813, 816). A date during the weeks after 15 August 1106 would fit all other evidence and make this Robert Malet's last datable attestation, showing that he remained with the queen in England when the king sailed for Normandy in July. The king's confirmation, 000, *Regesta* 676, makes a date in 1104 unlikely and perhaps impossible; it is place-dated in Normandy and was witnessed by Roger de Courseulles at Lyons-la-Forêt, in an area of the duchy not visited by Henry that year, and it would be the only act dated during Henry's visit to Duke Robert in 1104.

ADDRESS: The address indicates a writ-charter to the shire court, but the substance of the act includes a command to the officers of the shire, and that is where the emphasis is placed by the narrative.

WITNESS: Roger de Courseulles, who also witnesses the king's act confirming this transaction (0000, *Regesta* 676), place-dated in Normandy; Robert Malet, who witnessed an act of the queen for York Minster (0000, *Regesta* 675); Odo Moire also witnesses an act of the queen for Waltham, 1108 × 1115 (000, *Regesta* 1090).

PLACE: London.

CONTEXT: What lies behind the story as told? If we may accept that the queen was passing through Abingdon on the occasion when she made this gift, we may wonder why her writ-charter is dated at London. What is clear, however, is that there lies behind this narrative another document that included mention of the house of Robert's brother Ranulf and the consent of Robert Gernon's sons, for without such a document the chronicler would not have been able to name them. That may have been a grant by Robert Gernon to the queen or indeed to the abbey. Having secured this, Abbot Faritius sent to London, where the queen provided this writ-charter, which clearly involves herself in the gift. The last clause of the text is more appropriate to a writ, however, and one wonders therefore whether this is a repetition of an earlier act. The next document (000, *Regesta* 676) is the king's confirmation of the queen's act, where the chronicle's incomplete reading must be restored from that of the cartulary. At a later date Robert Gernon was sent a writ because he was interfering in the abbey's peaceful possession of Robert fitz Hervey and his land (000, *Regesta* 742).

The other documents allow us to identify the land in question as forming a part of Robert Gernon's large manor of Wraysbury in Stoke hundred, Buckinghamshire, which he held as a manor of twenty hides in 1086 (*DB*, i. 149v; Bucks § 20. 1). Robert Gernon gave the two parish churches of this manor to Gloucester abbey in 1114 in the presence of the queen (000, *Regesta* 1026 for Gloucester). The possibility exists therefore that the queen had some particular influence over Robert Gernon and could

persuade him to make gifts to different churches as she chose. The king's confirmation of 1114–15, probably drafted at Abingdon, refers to the land as given by the queen in conjunction with Robert Gernon (000 § 11, *Regesta* 1092).

00 Writ-charter granting Queen Matilda's gift to the abbey of the land of Robert fitz Hervey in Wraysbury (Bucks). Late 1106

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 154r ('Confirmatio regis Henrici de eadem re huiusmodi textum habet') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 143r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 39r–v ('Item de predicta terra de Wirett(esbiria)', no. xlvij, omits witnesses) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 99 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 72 (L117) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 144–6 (§ 142) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 103; *Regesta* 676.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Roberto episcopo Linc(olie) et Hug(oni) de Boch(elandia) et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Buchingehamscira<sup>a</sup> salutem. Sciatis me concessisse sancte Marie de Abbendona et Faritio abbati et monachis de ipsa abbatia de Abbendona in perpetuo possidendam<sup>b</sup> terram Roberti filii Heruei de Wirettesberia quam Robertus Gernon dedit Mathildi regine uxori mee <et ipsa regina dedit sancte Marie et monachis suis de Abbend(onia). Et uolo<sup>c</sup> et precipio ut ita bene et honorifice teneat illam terram sicut melius tenet totam aliam terram suam et cum eisdem consuetudinibus. T(este) Rogero de Curcellis. Apud Sanctum Dionisium in Leons.

<sup>a</sup> Berchesira D                      <sup>b</sup> possidendam D ] possidendum BC  
<sup>c</sup> et ipsa regina . . . Et uolo D ] om. BC

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and Hugh of Buckland and all his barons French and English of Buckinghamshire greeting. Know that I have granted to St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and the monks of the abbey of Abingdon to possess for ever the land of Robert fitz Hervey of Wraysbury which Robert Gernon gave to Queen Matilda my wife <and the queen herself gave to St Mary and her monks. And I will> and command that he shall hold that land as well and honourably as he well holds all his other land and with the same customs. Witness Roger de Courseulles. At Lyons-la-Forêt.*

DATE: After the preceding act, for which dates in 1104 and 1106 have been proposed. Roger de Courseulles would appear to have travelled to Normandy to see the king, since he is witness to both. If the date 1104 were accepted, it would be the only act that may be plausibly dated to either of the king's two visits to Normandy while Duke Robert remained in control of the duchy. The place-date is also much further east than the part of western Normandy known to have been visited by the king in 1104 (Orderic, XI 10, ed. Chibnall, vi. 56). The king did not stay in Normandy beyond the late autumn of 1104. A date after the battle of Tinchebray in September 1106 is far preferable. The king did use his seal in Normandy in that period: two acts given at Rouen appear securely dated to November 1106 (000, *Regesta* 790 for Fécamp; 000, *Regesta* 791 for Malling priory) (For a wider argument that the king did not use his seal in Normandy until he controlled the duchy, see H. F. Doherty, 'La bataille de Tinchebray et les actes de Henri Ier', in *Tinchebray 1106–2006. Actes du colloque de septembre 2006*, ed. V. Gazeau & J. A. Green (Rouen, 2009), 167–87.)

ADDRESS: Shire court of Buckingham.

WITNESS: Roger de Courseulles.

PLACE: Lyons-la-Forêt, 31 km east of Rouen. The king treated Rouen as his base in the closing months of 1106, and this place-date may suggest a hunting trip from Rouen.

CONTEXT: For the background to the gift of this land in Wraysbury, see note on preceding act. The fact that Robert de Courseulles witnesses both acts is of considerable interest. It is not unusual for someone who witnesses an act by the queen to witness also its confirmation by the king (compare Robert Malet in 0000, 0000, *Regesta* 675, 720 for York Minster). The striking fact is that Roger has crossed the channel between attesting for the queen in London and seeing the king at Lyons-la-Forêt in Normandy. If the narrative and the dating are accepted, the gift was initiated at Abingdon in August 1106 and confirmed by the queen's charter some time later in London. The queen would presumably have heard of the king's victory at Tinchebray as soon as news could be got to England in early October 1106. If Roger de Courseulles is at this date a member of her household, remaining in England with her while the king was in Normandy, he may have been sent to the king with her greetings and on the same visit obtained this confirmation of her gift to Abbot Faritius.

00 Writ ordering Robert Gernon to allow Robert fitz Hervey to be in peace, whose land was given by Robert Gernon to the queen and by her to the church of Abingdon. July × September 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 154r ('Carta item de eadem terra')[B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 143r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 39v ('Item de predicta terra', no. xlix, omits witnesses) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 99–100 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 98 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 429 (no. 35) ('debt and entry') [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 72–3 (L118) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii.146 (§ 143) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 149; *Regesta* 742.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rotberto Gernon salutem. Precipio tibi ut permittas esse ita in pace Robertum filium Heruei cum tota terra sua et pecunia sua<sup>a</sup> sicut melius et quietius tenebat eam die qua dedisti eam terram regine, et ipsa eam terram dedit in elemosina ecclesie sancte Marie de Abbendona. Et uide ne inde amplius clamorem audiam. T(estibus) regina et Roberto comite de Mellent. Apud Rochingeham.

<sup>a</sup> sua D ] *om.* BC

*Henry king of the English to Robert Gernon greeting. I command you to allow to be in peace Robert fitz Hervey with all his land and chattels just as he well and quietly held it on the day when you gave the land to the queen and she herself gave the land in alms to the church of St Mary of Abingdon. And see that I hear no more complaint in this matter. Witness the queen and Robert count of Meulan. At Rockingham.*

DATE: Formally datable before the king left England for the last time while Queen Matilda was alive, April 1116. Other documents concerning the same transaction reduce the date-range. After 000, *Regesta* 676 above, which can hardly date from before the last weeks of 1106. Probably before 000, *Regesta* 813 below, and therefore no later than Roger Bigod's death, 8 or 15 September 1107. The king's absence in Normandy between July 1106 and July 1107 further limits the date-range to July × September 1107. See place-date.

ADDRESS: Robert Gernon, against whom complaint has been made.

WITNESS: Queen Matilda; Robert, count of Meulan.

PLACE: Rockingham, Northants. Plausibly grouped by the editors of *Regesta* with four other acts dated at Rockingham, *Regesta* 741–6; Robert of Meulan was present and witnessed 0000, *Regesta* 741 for St Albans, dated in the sixth year of the coronation, 5 August 1105 × 4 August 1106; the queen's chaplain Bernard was present and witnessed 0000, 0000, *Regesta* 743–4 for Lincoln cathedral, datable September 1102 × August 1106. The reasoning given under Date tends to separate this act from that group.

CONTEXT: The chronicle quotes this act as a coda to acts by Queen Matilda and King Henry concerning the gift of Robert fitz Hervey and his land (000, 000, *Regesta* 674, 676). He had given this property to the queen, so that she might give it to Abingdon, but it appears that Robert or his men continued to expect some services of Robert fitz Hervey. Hence the abbot sought this writ. It is not without interest that the queen is the first witness.

00 Writ-charter confirming the gift by Henry d'Aubigny to the church of Abingdon of land at Stratton (Beds). Probably May 1107 × July 1108

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 154v ('De terra quam Henricus de Albinei dedit huic ecclesie. Carta Roberti filii Henrici de eadem terra. Confirmatio regis Henrici eiusdem terre') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 143v [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 39v ('De terra in Holme et Stratton', no. 1, omits witnesses) [D], fol. 86v (Robert's deed); Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv-xv), fol. 117v [E].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 101-102 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 73 (L119, C318), 168 (L245, Robert's deed) (English abstracts) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 148 (§ 146) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 349; *Regesta* 812.

Henricus de Albeneio dedit sancte Marie in presentia domni Faritii abbatis et totius conuentus Abbendonensis unam hidam et unam uirgatum in Bedefordensi scira, que terra uocatur Stretune, et quam Waldef de illo tenuerat. Dedit autem eam ita quiete habere ut nulli inde aliquod seruitium faciamus excepto quod de geldo regali secundum totius terre morem, procuremus. Et hanc donationem in capitulo feria quinta in ebdomada Pasche, anno septimo regni Henrici regis. Post hec, eodem anno die apostolorum Philippi et Iacobi, manente eodem Henrico adhuc in ista uilla, creuit donum superius dictum, una uidelicet uirgata et dimidia eo loco quo antea dederat. Factaque est ipsa datio unius hide et dimidie et unius uirgate. Vadem autem huius posterioris doni per manum sui capellani Gilleberti super altare imponendum transmisit, in conspectum omnium monachorum et plurimorum laicorum. Hec omnia postea in conspectu suorum prudentum hominum, Nigelli de Wast et Arfast, idem Henricus, et in presentia domni Faritii abbatis, confirmauit in camera ipsius abbatis, quatinus et ipsi in posterum testes inde existerent. Henrico uero defuncto, Robertus filius eius taliter eandem donationem sigillo proprio confirmauit.

Notum<sup>a</sup> sit et certum omnibus presentibus et futuris clericis et laicis quod ego Robertus de Albeneio concessi finaliter deo et ecclesie sancte Marie de Abbendona terram quam pater meus Henricus libere dederat eidem ecclesie, unam scilicet hidam et dimidiam et uirgatum unam in Stretona, et hoc breui meo confirmaui perpetualiter solutam esse et quietam ab omni requisitione et seruitio, et liberam ab omnibus rebus preter ea que communiter totus comitatus per communes summonitiones regis facturus

est. Testibus his Radulfo <presbitero><sup>b</sup> ecclesie de Cothes, Waltero camerario de Abbend(ona), Cezilia matre mea, Nigello fratre meo, Hug(one) capellano, Roberto capellano, Willelmo filio Nigelli, Henrico de Broi, Iohanne de Charun, Roberto de Cothes, Rogero de Standene. Hec concessio et confirmatio facta est feria V pasche apud Cahenno.

<sup>a</sup> Copy also in *Bodl. MS Lyell 15, fol. 86v*, omits witnesses (*Lambrick & Slade, i. 168; L244*); *Lambrick & Slade, i. 168–9 (L245)* is a deed of Robert's son Henry in very similar words.

<sup>b</sup> presbitero. *conj. Hudson* ] priore BC

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Roberto episcopo Linc' et Hugoni de Boch(elandia) et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et anglis de Bedefortscira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse ecclesie sancte Marie de Abbendona terram quam Henricus de Albinni dedit predicte ecclesie, uidelicet I hidam terre ad Holmum et dimidiam uirgam terre, et dimidiam hidam in Estratona de hundredo de Bicheleswatere. T(estibus) Rotberto episcopo Linc' et Rogero episcopo Salesb' et Ham(one) dapifero et W(illelmo) de Albinni et Nigello de Albinni et Grimbaldo medico. Apud Westm(onasterium).

*Henry d'Aubigny gave to St Mary in the presence of Dom Faritius the abbot and all the convent of Abingdon one hide and one virgate in Bedfordshire, which land is called Stratton, and which Waltheof had held of him. He gave it to have quietly on such terms that we do no service to anyone thereof except that we have a responsibility in the matter of the king's geld in accordance with the custom of the whole country. He made this gift in the chapter house on the Thursday after Easter in the seventh year of King Henry's reign. Later the same year, on the feast of St Philip and St James, when the same Henry was staying here in the town, he increased his abovementioned gift by one virgate and a half in the same place as he had given before. The completed gift was one hide and a half and one virgate. He sent a pledge of this further gift by the hand of Gilbert his chaplain to place on the altar in the presence of all the monks and of many laymen. All these things the same Henry confirmed in the presence of Dom Faritius the abbot in the abbot's chamber, in the sight of his wise men Nigel de Wast and Arfast, so that they should be witnesses thereof in the future. After Henry's death, his son Robert confirmed the same gift with his own seal in these terms:*

*Be it known and certain to all present and future, clerk and lay, that I Robert d'Aubigny have granted forever to God and the church of St Mary of Abingdon the land which my father Henry had freely given to the same church, namely one hide and a half and one virgate in Stratton, and by this my deed I have confirmed that it shall be for ever absolved and quit of all demand and service and free from all things except those which*

*the whole county shall perform in common by the common summons of the king. These are witnesses, Ralf <priest> of the church of Cothes, Walter chamberlain of Abingdon, Cecilia my mother, Nigel my brother, Hugh the chaplain, Robert the chaplain, William fitz Nigel, Henry de Broi, John de Charun, Robert de Cothes, Roger of Stondon. This grant and confirmation was made on the Thursday after Easter at Cainhoe.*

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and Hugh of Buckland and all his sworn men French and English of Bedfordshire greeting. Know that I have granted to the church of St Mary of Abingdon the land that Henry d'Aubigny gave to the foresaid church, namely one hide of land and half a virgate of land at Holme, and half a hide of land at Stratton in Biggleswade hundred. Witness Robert bishop of Lincoln and Roger bishop of Salisbury and Haimo Dapifer and William d'Aubigny and Nigel d'Aubigny and Grimaldus the physician. At Westminster.*

DATE: After the nomination of Roger, bishop of Salisbury, September 1102, and before the death of Hugh of Buckland, 1116 × 1117. The chronicle dates Henry d'Aubigny's gifts to 18 April and 1 May in the seventh year of the reign, so 1107. The king returned to England in March or very early April 1107 and left again for Normandy in July 1108; it is unlikely many months elapsed between the gifts and Henry's confirmation.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Bedfordshire.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln; Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Haimo Dapifer; William d'Aubigny, presumably *pincerna*; Nigel d'Aubigny, brother of Robert d'Aubigny; Grimaldus the physician.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: The king's confirmation refers to one hide and a half-virgate at Holme and a further half-hide at Stratton. This matches two entries in Domesday Book. Holme was assessed at one hide and a half-virgate among Henry d'Aubigny's father's possessions in 1086 (*DB*, i. 214r; *Beds* § 24. 26). In the preceding entry the sub-tenant, Fulcher of Paris, held a half-hide near to Holme, but Domesday Book omits the name of the place (*DB*, i. 214v; *Beds* § 24. 25); it was presumably at Stratton. The rest of Stratton was divided between Walter Giffard, Walter of Flanders, Ralf de l'Isle, and Countess Judith (*DB*, i. 211v, 215v, 217r–v; *Beds* §§ 16. 7, 32. 10, 51. 1, 53. 17), and Fulcher was also Walter Giffard's tenant of one hide and 1½ virgates in Stratton (§ 16. 7), and he held land also of Countess Judith in both Stratton and Holme (§§ 53. 17–18). Now, Robert's deed refers to 1½ hides and 1 virgate in Stratton, a half-virgate more than the d'Aubigny holding at Holme in Domesday Book. The narrative refers to two gifts, the first of one hide and a half-virgate in Stratton, the second of 1½ virgates in the same place; his total, 1½ hides and 1 virgate, matches Robert's deed but is not the sum of the two parts. How the narrator derived his figures is unclear.

Once again, the chronicler appears to have used a primary deed, in this case Henry d'Aubigny's, but he does not copy it. Since the two gifts are given precise dates, very close together, on the Thursday after Easter, *feria quinta in ebdomade Pasche* (18 April 1107) and St Philip and St James (Wednesday, 1 May 1107), it is possible that they were written up as one deed, perhaps place-dated in the abbot's chamber. The witnesses to it, Nigel de Wast and Arfast or Erfast, were tenants of Henry d'Aubigny's father in 1086. The repetition of the date, *feria quinta Pasche*, at the end of Robert's deed may, on the other hand, point to confusion by the chronicler. It was place-dated at Cainhoe, the family's principal manor in Bedfordshire (*DB*, i. 214r; § 24. 15).

00 Writ-charter addressed to the shire courts of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, confirming various gifts to the church of Abingdon. 2 June 1107

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 155r–v (‘De Leseboimilne. Carta regis de eodem molendino’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fols. 144v–145r [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 40r (‘De Boymulle et de v domibus infra Burgum de terra inter Hanst’), no. liij, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 117v [E].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 106–107 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 75–6 (L122, C317) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 154–6 (§ 154) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 174, 175; *Regesta* 813, 816.

Willelmus filius Aiulfi et uxor eius Mathildis cum Ricardo filio eorum, in capitulo Abbendonense in presentia Faritii abbatis et totius conuentus, <dederunt><sup>a</sup> et concesserunt deo et ecclesie Abbendonensi communi consensu molendinum quod Anglice uocatur Leseboie mylne cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus tam in aquis quam in agris et pascuis, et omnes domos quas in burgo habebant, perpetuo et hereditario iure in supradicta ecclesia permanere astantibus his testibus monachis omnibus, Serlone presbitero, et multis aliis, anno VII Henrici regis.

<sup>a</sup> dederunt *conj.* Hudson ] et concesserunt BC

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Roberto episcopo Linc’ et Nigello de Oili et Hugoni de Boch(eland) et Willelmo uicecomiti de Oxeneford et omnibus baronibus suis et fidelibus suis de Oxenefordscira <sup>a</sup>et de Buchingehamscira<sup>a</sup> salutem. Sciatis me concessisse deo et sancte Marie de Abbendona et monachis [1] molendinum illud quod uocatur Boiemylna cum omnibus rebus sibi pertinentibus tam in terris quam in pratis et in aquis, et V domos que sunt infra burgum que (*sic*) Willelmus filius Aiulfi et uxor sua dederunt supradicte ecclesie perpetuo in elemosina. [2] Et terram illam quam Robertus filius Haimonis dedit eidem ecclesie que est inter Hemmestedam et Merlauam, sicut Gillebertus dapifer eius et Herbertus<sup>b</sup> de Sancto Quintino

et Rotbertus Sor cum multis aliis diuiserunt. [3] Et similiter concedo <sup>c</sup>Alwordum de Suttona cum tota terra sua quam Milo Crispinus et uxor eius dederunt predicte ecclesie perpetuo in elemosina. [4] Et similiter concedo <sup>c</sup> terram Roberti filii Heruei de Writeberia quam regina Mathildis dedit predicte ecclesie in elemosina et Robertus Gernon dedit ei. T(estibus) Willelmo episcopo Wintonie et Rogero episcopo Salesb(er)ie et Eudone dapifero, et Haim(one)<sup>d</sup> dapifero et Rogero Bigod et Willelmo de Curci et Nigello de Oili et Rogero filio Ricardi. Apud Westm(onasterium) in Pentecoste.

<sup>a-a</sup> om. D                    <sup>b</sup> Herbertus BC ] Hubertus D                    <sup>c-c</sup> om. D  
<sup>d</sup> Hamone E ] Raim', with added coloured initial R BC

*William fitz Aiulf and his wife Matilda with their son Richard, in the chapter house at Abingdon in the presence of Abbot Faritius and the whole convent, <gave> and granted to God and the church of Abingdon by common consent the mill named in English Boymill with all that pertains to it both in waters and in fields and pastures, and all the houses that they had in the borough, to remain by perpetual and hereditary right in the foresaid church, with all these monks present as witnesses, Serlo the priest, and many others in the seventh year of King Henry.*

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and Nigel d'Oilly and Hugh of Buckland and William sheriff of Oxford and all his barons and his sworn men of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire greeting. Know that I have granted to God and St Mary of Abingdon and the monks [1] the mill that is called Boymill with all property pertaining to it both in lands and in meadows and waters, and five houses which are within borough, which William fitz Aiulf and his wife gave to the foresaid church in alms. [2] And the land that Robert fitz Haimo gave to the same church which is between Ackhamstead and Marlow, just as Gilbert the steward gave it and Herbert of St Quentin and Robert Sor with many others defined its bounds. [3] And likewise I grant Aelward of Sutton with all his land which Miles Crispin and his wife gave to the foresaid church in alms for ever. [4] And likewise I grant the land of Robert fitz Hervey of Wraysbury which Queen Matilda gave to the foresaid church in alms and which Robert Gernon gave to her. Witness William bishop of Winchester and Roger bishop of Salisbury and Eudo Dapifer and Haimo Dapifer and Roger Bigod and William de Curci and Nigel d'Oilly and Roger fitz Richard. At Westminster at Pentecost.*

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153v ('De terra inter Hamstede et Merlaue. Carta de eadem terra') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142v [C]; Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 86v ('De terra de Merlaue', no. vij, Robert's deed) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 96–7 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 167 (L243, Robert's deed, English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 140 (§§ 137–8) [from BC].  
 CALENDAR: Farrer 175; *Regesta* 816.

Roberto filio Haimonis multa medele beneficia abbas Faritius frequenter impenderat. Quare ipse morti debitum soluendi tempori appropinquans, cum abbatis summonitu, suam ob memoriam aliquod pietatis uestigium, pro uenturis cum deo, tum quoque si recordaretur sua circa se plurima officia, pro sua gratia, monasterio Abbendonensi indiceretur pie debere deferre; intendit monitis, et quandam terre portionem, in qua plurimum sarti extirpatum fuisset, inter Hamstede et Merlaue, eidem monasterio contulit, scribens inde uniuersis sibi hominibus pertinentibus hoc modo.

Rotbertus <sup>a</sup>Haim(onis) filius<sup>a</sup> ministris suis et omnibus aliis <sup>b</sup>fidelibus suis<sup>b</sup> hominibus de Merlaue salutem. Sciatis me dedisse terram sancte Marie et monachis eius de Abbendonia, quam abbas et monachi a me requirebant, terram scilicet de Merlaue, sicut Gillebertus dapifer meus eam monachis liberauit, testimonio Herberti<sup>c</sup> de Sancto Quintino, et Roberti Sor, et Rogeri filii Gotze. Valete.

<sup>a-a</sup> filius Haimonis BC      <sup>b-b</sup> suis fidelibus BC      <sup>c</sup> Herberti D ] Huberti BC

Rex quoque idem confirmatum subscripsit ita, quia terram illam sancte Marie Abbendonie quam Robertus filius Haimonis dedit ecclesie, que est inter Hamstede et Merlauam, sicut Gillebertus dapifer eius et H(er)bertus<sup>a</sup> de Sancto Quintino et Robertus Sor cum multis aliis diuiserunt, ipse rex concesserit, t(estimonio) Willelmi episcopi Wintoniensis et Eudonis dapiferi et Haimonis dapiferi et Rogeri Bigod et Rogeri filii Ricardi et Willelmi de Curci. Apud Westm(onasterium) in Pentecostes. Existente Lincolis episcopo Roberto Bloet et Oxenefordscire uicecomite Willelmo.

<sup>a</sup> Hubertus BC

*Abbot Faritius on many occasions provided many benefits of medication to Robert fitz Haimo. For this reason, when Robert was approaching the time when he should pay his debt to death, it was pointed out at the abbot's suggestion that he ought piously to bring some evidence of his devotion to the monastery of Abingdon for the sake of his own commemoration, for the sake of the things to come with God, and also, if he remembered the abbot's many services to him, in gratitude. Robert heeded the advice and gave to the same monastery a piece of land between Ackhampstead and Marlow, where much assart had been cleared. On this subject he wrote to all his men in this manner:*

*Robert fitz Haimo to his officials and all his sworn men of Marlow greeting. Know that I have given the land to St Mary and the monks of Abingdon which the abbot and monks sought from me, namely the land of Marlow just as Gilbert my steward delivered it to the monks by the witness of Herbert of St Quentin and Robert Sor and Roger fitz Gotse. Farewell.*

*The king also put his name to this confirmation, on such terms that the king himself granted that land to St Mary of Abingdon which Robert fitz Haimo gave to the church, and lies between Ackhamstead and Marlow, just as Gilbert his steward and Herbert of St Quentin and Robert Sor with many others defined its bounds. The witnesses were William bishop of Winchester and Eudo Dapifer and Haimo Dapifer and Roger Bigod and Roger fitz Richard and William de Curci. At Westminster during Whitsuntide. The bishop of Lincoln at the time was Robert and the sheriff of Oxford was William.*

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153v ('De terra de Colebroc quam Milo Crispin dedit') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142v [C].  
 PRINTED: Dugdale, i. 105 ['fol. 144b', from C], repr. *Monasticon*, i. 521 (no. xx); Stevenson, ii. 97 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 142 (§ 139) [from BC].

Milo Crispin, pro seruitio quod abbas Faritius ei in sua infirmitate impenderat, dedit in elemosina ecclesie sancte Marie et monachis in Abbendonia quoddam hospicium in uia Lundonie apud Colebroc, in quo manebat quidam uocabulo Ægelwardus, et dimidiam hidam terre, pariter cum omnibus illi adiacentibus pratis, pascuis, et siluis. Et misit Abbendonie suum dapiferum, Gillebertum Pipard, cum capellano suo, Warino, et per eorum manus donum huius rei super altare sancte Marie imponi iussit, in presentia domni abbatis et totius conuentus ecclesie, anno uidelicet VII Henrici regis.

*Miles Crispin, in return for the service which Abbot Faritius provided to him in his infirmity, gave in alms to the church of St Mary and the monks in Abingdon a lodging on the road to London at Colnbrook, where a man called Aelward used to dwell, and half a hide of land with all the meadows, pastures, and woods belonging to it. And he sent his steward, Gilbert Pipard and his chaplain Warin to Abingdon and he ordered that the gift of this property should be placed by their hands on the altar of St Mary in the presence of the lord abbot and of all the convent. This was in the seventh year of King Henry.*

DATE: After the latest gift hereby confirmed, which the narratives concerning William fitz Aiulf's gift of Boymill and Miles Crispin's gift of the house at Colnbrook date to the seventh year of the reign, 1106–7; before the death of Roger Bigod, September 1107. The place-date of the writ-charter specifies Whitsuntide at Westminster, that is 2 June 1107.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Oxfordshire. Nigel d'Oilly was the constable of Oxford and may already have acted as justice in the county, though the act is very early for that.

WITNESS: William Giffard, bishop of Winchester; Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Eudo Dapifer, Haimo Dapifer, and Roger Bigod, royal stewards; William de Curci and Nigel d'Oilly, both well-connected with Abingdon abbey; and Roger fitz Richard de Clare. Several of the witnesses of this confirmation and the two officers to whom it is addressed are also named in the narrative concerning the confirmation of Robert fitz Haimo's gift (§ 138).

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: In spite of its rubric, the writ-charter here is a relatively early example of the form of confirmation that rounds up several recent benefactions by individuals. The writ-charter has no narrative context but is preceded instead by a record of the first gift confirmed. The chronicle also refers to this confirmation in another context. In §§ 137–8 the narrator tells of Robert fitz Haimo's gift (the second parcel of land confirmed by the writ-charter), quoting his deed, and then relates how the king confirmed it. Farrer and *Regesta* took the passage as evidence of a lost act and failed to connect it with the present confirmation in § 154; Hudson, ii. 141 n. 336, 155 n. 373, follows them; but it is quite clear that the narrative of the confirmation in § 138 quotes from the confirmation in § 154, which in turn paraphrases Robert's deed as copied in § 137. In the narrative sequence, § 139 then adds an account of Miles Crispin's gift, the third parcel of land confirmed in the same writ-charter in § 154; no corresponding deed survives in Miles's name.

The four transactions confirmed are as follows:

[1] Gift by William fitz Aiulf and his wife Matilda, whose deed is cited above (§ 153), dated to 1106–7. The five houses within the borough may be presumed to lie in Oxford, but they are not identifiable in Domesday Book. Boymill stood on the river Cherwell below the east bridge of Oxford and on the east bank in Temple Cowley parish (VCH *Oxon*, v. 78). The mill and its attached land were given by Roger, bishop of Salisbury, to the nuns of Godstow at the dedication of their church in January 1139 (*EEA* i *Lincoln* 1067–1185, 20–22, no. 33; see also hereafter, headnote on Aelwin fitz Godegos). Lambrick & Slade, i. 76, drew the inference that Boymill was a part of the property in Oxford obtained by Bishop Roger from Abingdon abbey as part of an exchange datable to 1107 × 1111 (000, *Regesta* 1128, below). While an explanation is required for the transference of Boymill from the monks to the bishop, this is not necessarily the correct one, for that land appears to have been exchanged for the enlargement of the precinct of St Frideswide's church.

[2] Gift by Robert fitz Haimo, whose deed is copied above (§ 138). The land at Marlow, given at the request of Abbot Faritius and his monks, is defined by the chronicle as an assart between Robert's manor of Marlow (Bucks) and Ackhamstead (a now deserted village that pertained to the abbey's estate of Lewknor, Oxon, but lying in Great Marlow) (VCH *Oxon*, viii. 103). The narrative explains this as a gift when he was dying, and Robert died in 1107, two years after leaving Henry's household due to injury. His deed explicitly refers to seisin delivered by his steward Gilbert. The arrangements for his steward to transfer the land in the presence of others of Robert's men is expressed in the king's confirmation of 1114–15 in the words 'sicut designatum fuit per barones ipsius Roberti'. Both documents in this way reflect the incapacity that led Robert to leave the court in 1105; he acted through proxies. The king's act correctly

names Gilbert the steward, Herbert of St Quentin, and Robert Sor. The Abingdon text has turned Herbert into ‘Hubert’ at two points, but Herbert of St Quentin is attested among Robert fitz Haimo’s men in Glamorgan; St Quintin’s castle, Llanbethian, preserves the name of the family. He also held land in Holderness.

[3] Gift by Miles Crispin, referred in the narrative and dated to 1106–7. The wording of the first sentence here could have been taken from Miles’s deed. Abbot Faritius’s medical care did not save his life: Miles Crispin died in 1107 (John of Worcester, iii. 112). The house and land previously held by Aelward of Sutton at Colnbrook, on the road between Abingdon and London, cannot be identified in Domesday Book. Although Miles had estates in Buckinghamshire in 1086 (*DB*, i. 149v–150r; § 23), he had nothing in Stoke hundred. Colnbrook indeed would surely have lain with Robert Gernon’s estate of Wraysbury and Langley (next).

[4] Robert Gernon had given the land of Robert fitz Hervey, within his manor of Wraysbury (Bucks), to Queen Matilda, who gave it as her alms to the church of Abingdon; see above, 00, 00, *Regesta* 674, 676. It was later the subject of a dispute involving Robert Gernon’s successor William de Montfichet; see below, 00, 00, not in *Regesta*, *Regesta* 1402. In 1143, the confirmation by Pope Eugenius III joins the last two together, ‘In Colnbrook whatever lands and rights you have by gift of Miles Crispin and Robert Gernon’ (Stevenson, ii. 191; Hudson, 268, § 266).

AUTHENTICITY: The inconsistency between the chronicle’s rubric and the tenor of this act led Hudson to suggest that ‘this could simply be a rather awkwardly drafted document but may have been interpolated’ (Hudson, vol. ii, p. xviii). He also refers to the text in D, which has accidentally omitted a number of words. The only awkwardness is that the narrator chose to quote it to illustrate a single gift and to refer to it in another context rather than describing it as a confirmation of several recent gifts.

## 00 Writ-charter confirming the gift by William Goizenboded to the church of Abingdon of a hide of land at Dumbleton (Glos). August 1107 × July 1108

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 154v (‘De una hida apud Dumelton quam Willelmus dedit’, ‘Carta regis de eadem hida’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 144r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 39v (‘De una hida terre in Du(m)belt(on) in hundred de Greteston’, no. lj, omits witnesses) [D], fol. 87r (Count Robert’s deed).

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 103 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 74 (L120), 169 (L246, Count Robert’s deed) (English abstracts) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 150–52 (§ 149) [from BC]; D. Crouch, ‘Robert of Beaumont, count of Meulan and Leicester: his lands, his acts, and his self-image. The acts of Count Robert of Meulan’, *Haskins Society Journal* 17 (2006), 91–116, at p. 101 [Count Robert’s act only, from CD].

CALENDAR: Farrer 277; *Regesta* 893.

Anno VIII regni Henrici regis, Faritio abbate et omnibus monachis in capitulo residentibus, Willelmus Guizenboeth dedit sancte Marie de

Abbondona unam hidam, quietam ab omni calumpnia, quam habebat in uilla Dumeltuna; et hoc dedit concessu domini sui Roberti, comitis de Mellent, de cuius uidelicet feudo hidam illam tenuerat.

*Carta comitis de Mellent de eadem hida*

Ego Rotbertus comes de Mellent rogatus fui a Willelmo Guizenboeth, et ab amicis suis, et baronibus meis, ut concederem deo et sancte Marie in Abbdonensi ecclesia quandam hidam terre que est in uilla Dumeltuna, in hundredo de Gretestan, quam idem W(illelmus) ante me et meos barones dederat in elemosina perpetuo habendam supradicte ecclesie. Quod libenter annui et uoluntarie concessi, quia de feudo meo erat, pro remissione peccatorum meorum et anime mee salute. Hoc denique feci coram subscriptis testibus, et me rogantibus, scilicet eodem Willelmo, et Ricardo capellano, et Goisfredo medico, et Nigello de Oileio, et Roberto filio Ansketilli, et Gosfredo Ridello, et Radulfo uicecomite, et Roberto filio Ercenboldi, et Roberto filio Rogeri, et Rodulfo de Furcis, et Rogero filio Rodulfi nepote Nigelli, Luuello de Peri, et Willelmo nigro homine eiusdem W. Guizenboeth, et Rogero Frangelupum, et aliis multis, et Warino homine abbatis, et Rainaldo, et Lamberto. Hec omnia acta sunt coram me et per me, scilicet comitem de Mellent, et ante omnes suprascriptos fecit Willelmus Guizenboeth donum istud, pro se et filio et uxore et omnibus heredibus suis, et promisit auctoritatem omnium se esse facturum.

*Carta regis de eadem hida*

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Sam(soni) episcopo et Waltero uic(ecomiti) et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis de Gloec(ester)scira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse deo et sancte Marie ecclesie Abbdone hidam terre que est in uilla Dumeltuna in hundredo de Gretestan quam Willelmus Goizenboeth dedit predicte ecclesie. Et hoc concedo perpetuo firmiter habendam ita quiete et in pace in omnibus sicut habet aliam terram in eadem uilla. T(estibus) com(ite) de Mellent et Vtuer et Gosfr(ido) filio Pagani et Aluredo de Lincola. Apud Wintoniam.

*In the eighth year of King Henry's reign, William Goizenboded gave to St Mary of Abingdon one hide, quit of all claim, which he had in the vill of Dumbleton. He made*

*this gift in the chapter house in the presence of Abbot Faritus and all the monks and with the consent of his lord Robert, count of Meulan, of whose fee he held that hide.*

*The count of Meulan's charter concerning the same hide.*

*I Robert count of Meulan have been asked by William Goizenboded and his friends and by my barons to grant to God and St Mary in the church of Abingdon a hide of land in the vill of Dumbleton in Greston hundred, which the same William in the presence of me and my barons had given to the foresaid church to hold in alms for ever. I have freely consented and willingly granted this, for it belonged to my fee, for the remission of my sins and the salvation of my soul. Finally I did this in the presence of the underwritten witnesses and at their request, namely the same William, and Richard the chaplain, and Geoffrey the physician, and Nigel d'Oilly, and Robert fitz Ansketill, and Geoffrey Ridel, and Ralf the sheriff, and Robert fitz Ercebold, and Robert fitz Roger, and Rolf de Furcis, and Roger fitz Rolf, nephew of Nigel, Lovell of Perry, and William the black, man of the same William Goizenboded, and Roger Froisselew, and many others, and Warin, the abbot's man, and Rainald and Lambert. All these things were done before me and by me, namely the count of Meulan, and William Goizenboded made this gift in front of all the abovementioned, for himself and his son and his wife and all his heirs, and he promised that he would make himself the authority of all these things.*

*The king's charter concerning the same hide.*

*Henry king of the English to Bishop Samson and Walter sheriff and all his barons French and English of Gloucestershire greeting. Know that I have granted to God and St Mary of the church of Abingdon the hide of land in the vill of Dumbleton in Greston hundred which William Goizenboded gave to the foresaid church. And this I grant for ever firmly to have that land as quietly and in peace in all things as it has other land in the same vill. Witness the count of Meulan and Otuer and Geoffrey fitz Pain and Alfred of Lincoln. At Winchester.*

DATE: Formally, before the king left England for the last time while Bishop Samson was alive, August 1111. The chronicler dates the gift of William Goizenboded to the eighth year of the reign, 1107–8. If this is correct (see Context), it is likely that the royal confirmation was obtained in England before King Henry sailed for Normandy in July 1108. On that basis this is the earliest attestation of Geoffrey fitz Pain.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Gloucestershire.

WITNESS: Robert, count of Meulan; Otuer fitz Count; Geoffrey fitz Pain; Alfred of Lincoln.

PLACE: Winchester.

CONTEXT: William Goizenboded held one hide in Dumbleton (Glos) as tenant in chief in 1086 (*DB*, i. 167r; § 34. 13), which is no doubt the land he gave to the church of Abingdon. Roger Frangelupum, mentioned as a witness to Count Robert's deed, must be the successor of William Froisselew, who also held one hide at Littleton, part of Dumbleton, in 1086 (*DB*, i. 167v; § 36. 3). The rest of the village had been held by the abbey for a century (S 1488; Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 133), apart from half a hide granted to the church by the king before 1107 (see 00 above, *Regesta* 701), which was held by Walter *fossatarius*. The land given to the church was evidently leased to Ralf, the son

of Walter *fossatarius*, who was already a tenant of Abingdon at Dumbleton; he appears to have abjured the realm in 1112–13 (Stevenson, ii. 104; Hudson, ii. 152, § 150).

The circumstances in which William Goizenboded's holding came into the fee of Robert, count of Meulan, are not without significance. On the evidence of this transaction, Crouch has noted that the Goizenboded fee was made subordinate to the honour of Count Robert 'by 1108 at the latest' (*Beaumont Twins*, 110 n. 28); in his *ODNB* article on the count, he further infers that the county of Leicester was conferred on Robert in 1107 after his return with the king from Normandy, and he there mentions the fees of Cahaignes, Goizenboded, and Aubrey de Coucy as being subordinated to Robert's honour at this time. For evidence that the fee of William de Cahaignes in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire had been subordinated to the earl of Leicester, see Roger of Howden, *Gesta regis Henrici*, i. 133–4 and notes on 000 for Count Robert. Aubrey de Coucy had been briefly earl of Northumbria in 1080–81, his lands were still entered under 'Comes Albericus' or 'Albericus de Coci' in Domesday Book, and included lands in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire which were held by Count Robert's son at the date of the Leicestershire survey of c. 1130. The texts here are the evidence concerning the Goizenboded fee in Gloucestershire, and the Abingdon history appears to provide the dating for this interpretation. Orderic's reference to Robert's acquiring Leicester provides no date (Orderic, XI 2, vi. 18–21), but '1107?' is given without evidence in *Complete Peerage*, vii. 523. Count Robert's deed is printed by Crouch, 'The acts of Count Robert of Meulan', 100–101 (no. 1), with the comment, 'it seems that the estate must have been subordinated to the new earldom of Leicester in 1107'. The date 1107 × 1108 is also applied by Crouch to Count Robert's foundation of the collegiate church of St Mary de Castro ('The acts of Count Robert of Meulan', 107–8, no. 12), following the linking circumstances given in a fifteenth-century narrative; 1107 is the date given for the foundation in a narrative of uncertain authority copied into Cartae Antiquae roll CC (PRO C52/27, no. 23; *Monasticon*, vi. 467, no. 18). The chain of inferences is persuasive, and the dating from both Abingdon and Leicester sources may be treated as corroboration.

## ABBOT FARITIUS: NOT LATER THAN 1110/11

00 Writ of naifty ordering the sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire and landholders Robert de Ferrers and Nicholas of Stafford to restore fugitive serfs to the abbey, and in particular the man on the land of Robert de Ferrers. 1100 × 1111

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151r ('Item de fugitiuis') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 81–2 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 95 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 469 (no. 108) ('naifty') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 120 (§ 103) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 726.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Rotberto de Ferrariis et Willelmo uicecomiti de Oxeneford et Nicholao de Statford salutem. Precipio uobis ut iuste et sine mora faciatis redire ad abbatiam de Abbendona omnes fugitios suos et cum tota pecunia sua ubicumque<sup>a</sup> sint, et ita ne inde amplius clamorem audiam pro recti penuria. Et nominatim hominem qui est in terra Rotberti de Ferrariis et cum tota pecunia sua. T(este) Rogero filio Ricardi. Apud Warengford.

<sup>a</sup> ibicumque BC, as also in document that precedes it in the chronicle, § 102, 000, *Regesta* 1799

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and Robert de Ferrers and William sheriff of Oxford and Nicholas of Stafford greeting. I command you that you shall justly and without delay cause to return to the abbey of Abingdon all its fugitives and with all their chattels, wherever they may be, and so that I hear no more complaint in this matter for want of right. And in particular the man who is in the land of Robert de Ferrers and with all his chattels. Witness Roger fitz Richard. At Wallingford.*

DATE: While William of Oxford was sheriff of Oxfordshire, until 1107 × 1111 (see note on 000, *Regesta* 814).

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland as sheriff of Berkshire; Robert de Ferrers, landholder in Derbyshire and other counties; William of Oxford, as sheriff of Oxfordshire; and Nicholas of Stafford, who was sheriff of Staffordshire. Robert de Ferrers and Nicholas of Stafford, however, also held lands in both Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and the mention of Robert de Ferrers's land shows that he is addressed as the landholder who could seize and restore the fugitive. Hudson, ii. 121 n. 285, conjectures that the one man referred to in particular may have gone to South Denchworth (Berks), in the Vale of the White Horse, where Robert de Ferrers and Nicholas of Stafford had both succeeded to land held by their fathers in 1086 (*DB*, i. 60v, 62r; §§ 21. 9, 42. 1). Both were also tenants in chief in Oxfordshire, which explains the address to William of Oxford. The address thus alternates those notified as sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire and those involved as landholders on whose lands the abbey's fugitives had been received: the order of names must reflect perceived precedence rather than role as sheriff or transgressor.

WITNESS: Roger fitz Richard de Clare.

PLACE: Wallingford, Berks.

CONTEXT: See Address.

00 Writ ordering Nigel d'Oilly and the sheriff of Oxfordshire to do justice to the abbot in the matter of the sluice which the men of Stanton (Oxon) have broken. January 1107 × Michaelmas 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fols. 152v–153r ('De exclusiva quam homines de Estona fregerunt') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 49r (no. 84) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 98 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 89 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 486 (no. 141) ('justicies') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 134 (§ 128) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 814.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Nig(ello) de Oilli et Willelmo uic(ecomiti) de Oxen(eford) salutem. Precipio uobis ut faciatis abbati de Abbendona plenariam rectitudinem de exclusiva sua quam homines de Estantona fregerunt, et ita ne amplius inde clamorem audiam pro recti penuria, et hoc super X libras forisfacture. T(este) Rann(ulfo) canc(ellario). Apud Westm(onasterium).

*Henry king of the English to Nigel d'Oilly and William sheriff of Oxford greeting. I command you to do full justice to the abbot of Abingdon in the matter of his sluice which the men of Stanton have broken, so that I hear no more complaint in this matter for want of right, and this upon £10 of forfeit. Witness Ranulf the chancellor. At Westminster.*

DATE: While William was sheriff of Oxford, until 1107 × 1110. This act shows that he continued in office after Ranulf was appointed chancellor early in 1107; his successor is first attested in post in February 1111 and had presumably been in office since at least Michaelmas 1110 (000, *Regesta* 1000).

ADDRESS: Nigel d'Oilly, whether as constable of Oxford castle or possibly as justice of Oxfordshire, and William of Oxford as sheriff of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Ranulf, as chancellor.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: This is one of two writs concerning a sluice at Stanton, which the men of Stanton are said to have broken. Stanton is presumably Stanton Harcourt, held by the bishop of Bayeux in 1086 (*DB*, i. 155v; Oxon § 7. 3) but given by Henry I to Rualoc of Avranches (000, 000, *Regesta* 527, 528). That writ concerns three virgates of land contested between the two counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and it was suggested above that it may have been an island between channels of the river. If so, may one further conjecture that the breaking of the sluice might increase the flow between that

land and the Berkshire bank, perhaps with the consequence of making the island appear more to belong to the Oxfordshire bank?

00 Writ ordering the sheriff of Oxfordshire to do justice to the abbot without delay in the matter of the sluice which the men of Stanton (Oxon) have broken. November 1100 × Michaelmas 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r ('De hominibus de Stanton qui fregerunt exclusam abbatis') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 63v (no. 144) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 92–3 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 88 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 487 (no. 142) ('justicies') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 134–6 (§ 129) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 815.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Willelmo uic(ecomiti) de Oxeneford salutem. Fac cito et sine mora plenam iusticiam Faritio abbati de hominibus de Stanton qui fregerunt exclusam suam, et ita ne inde amplius pro recti penuria clamorem audiam super X libras forisfacture. T(este) Eud(one) dap(ifero). Apud Corneb(er)iam.

*Henry king of the English to William sheriff of Oxford greeting. Do justice quickly and without delay to Abbot Faritius in the matter of the men of Stanton who have broken his sluice, so that I hear no more complaint in this matter for want of right upon £10 of forfeit. Witness Eudo Dapifer. At Cornbury.*

DATE: While William was sheriff of Oxfordshire, until 1107 × 1110.

ADDRESS: The sheriff of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Eudo Dapifer.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon.

CONTEXT: See previous document.

00 Writ ordering Nigel d'Oilly and the king's huntsmen and marshals of the court not to requisition lodgings at Wheatley (Oxon), which belongs to the church of

Abingdon and is exempt. August 1100 × *c.* 1115,  
perhaps × *c.* 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151r ('Vt nemo hospitetur in Watelea') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139v [C].

FACSIMILE: W. O. Hassall, *Wheatley Records 956–1956*, Oxfordshire Record Society 37 (1956), pl. 7 [reproduces the whole verso from B].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 46r (no. 76) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 81 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 120 (§ 101) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 961.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Nigello de Oillei et omnibus uenatoribus et mariscalcis suis de curia salutem. Prohibeo ne aliquis uestrum hospitet in Wateleia, terra sancte Marie de Abbendona. Quia clamo eam quietam de hostagio, pro anima patris mei et matris mee. T(estibus) Grimaldo medico et Areto falc(onario). Apud Corneb(er)iam.

*Henry king of the English to Nigel d'Oilly and all his huntsmen and marshals of the court greeting. I forbid that any of you shall lodge at Wheatley, which is land of St Mary of Abingdon, since I quitclaim right of lodging there for the souls of my father and my mother. Witness Grimaldus the physician and Aret the falconer. At Cornbury.*

DATE: Before the death or retirement of Nigel d'Oilly, conjectured as *c.* September 1115 by Sanders, *English Baronies*, 54n; probably before the king transferred his Oxfordshire lodging from Cornbury to Woodstock, *c.* 1110.

ADDRESS: Nigel d'Oilly as king's constable and the king's huntsmen and marshalls of the court.

WITNESS: Grimaldus the physician; Aret the falconer.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon.

CONTEXT: The chronicle pairs this with 000, *Regesta* 1037, addressed 'constabulis et fidelibus de curia', prohibiting anyone from lodging in the town of Abingdon without the abbot's consent. The word *hostagium* refers to the lord's right to demand and the tenant's duty to provide lodging. In this case the right appears to have been exercised as a forest privilege of the king. The present more precisely worded writ forbids the addressees to demand lodging in Wheatley (Oxon), where the king renounces his right. The village of Wheatley is missing from Domesday Book (and from the abbey's abstract of Domesday Book, Hudson, ii. 385), but the entries for Gilbert's holding at Garsington and Sweeting's 'in eadem uilla' (*DB*, i. 156v; § 9. 8–9) correspond to a passage in the list of the abbot's knights' fees, where Gilbert in Garsington is joined with 'Sueting auus Mathie in Wateleia', owing the service of one knight between them (Stevenson, ii. 5; Hudson, ii. 324). This highlights the degree to which the list merges

information from Domesday Book and what was current about thirty years later, and shows that Wheatley was held by one Matthew as the abbot's tenant around this date.

00 Writ-charter granting to the abbey the meadow known as Kingsmead (Oxon). September 1102 × September 1111

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 148v ('De prato quod dicitur Kingesmed. Carta regis de Kingesmed') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 136v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 33r ('De prato quod uocatur Kingesmede', no. xj, omits witnesses) [D].

CARTAE ANTIQUAE ROLL: Cartae Antiquae Roll X, C52/22, mem. 1, no. 8 [F].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 176 (now fol. 113r) [from C, omits tenor]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 46r (no. 66) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 66 [from CF]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 55 (L80) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 98 (§ 74) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 247; *Regesta* 970.

Pratum quoddam situm est iuxta urbem Oxeneford, Kingesmad appellatum, regi quidem pertinens, pernecessarium autem hominibus de uilla abbacie que Hangestesi dicitur, pasturarum quippe suorum pecudum indigentes cernuntur. Vnde cum apud regis prefectum et illius procuratorem<sup>a</sup> loci pro illa pastura habenda multis in supplicationibus constituerentur, et nunc priuato munere delinitus uix audiret, nunc alias intendens, sese quasi surdum petitoribus preberet, abbas Faritius, tum pro releuatione huius penurie suorum hominum, tum pro eiusdem prepositi proterua exactione, a rege inde remedium quesiiuit. Sed quia illud sibi funditus appropriare nequiuuit, saltem effecit ut pro XX solidis in anno reddendis in regis expensis regis pratum illud in feudo firmam perpetuo continerent, eo tenore adeo libere, quatinus nullus uicecomitum super eos ad censum predictum amplius abinde imponeret, aut aliquid aliud consuetudinis pro hoc ab eis preter statutam pactionem exigeret. De qua concessione regis, littere huiusmodi ad comitatum Oxenefordscire ab eo tunc temporis sunt directe:

<sup>a</sup> procuratorem *conj.* Stevenson ] procuratoris BC

Henricus rex Angl(orum)<sup>a</sup> Rotberto<sup>b</sup> episcopo Lincol(ie) et  
<sup>c</sup>W(illelmo) uic(ecomiti) de Oxeneford et omnibus baronibus

suis francis et anglis de Oxenefordsira<sup>c</sup> salutem. Sciatis me concessisse ecclesie sancte Marie de Abbendona<sup>d</sup> et monachis eiusdem ecclesie pratum nomine Kingesmed<sup>e</sup>, quod homines de Hancstesia<sup>f</sup> soliti sunt habere ad firmam de Tillinc, in perpetuum habendum pro XX solidis in unoquoque anno, ita quod nullam aliam consuetudinem inde reddant. Et in potestate eorum sit ut inde faciant quicquid uoluerint. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Salesb' et Rotberto episcopo Lincol' et Haimone dapifero et Willelmo de Curci et Willelmo uicecomite de Oxenefordscira et Teoldo<sup>g</sup> capellano et Radulfo Basset et Aluredo de Lincolis. Apud Westmoster<sup>h</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Angl(orum) D ] Anglorum BC

<sup>b</sup> Rotberto B ] Roberto CD

<sup>c-c</sup> Willelmo uicecomiti de Oxenefordscira et omnibus baronibus suis inde francis et anglis BC W(illelmo) uic(ecomiti) de Oxenefordscira F <sup>d</sup> habend' F

<sup>e</sup> Chingesmade F <sup>f</sup> Hengestesia F <sup>g</sup> Teoldo F ] Hoeldo BC (D wanting)

<sup>h</sup> Westmuster F

*There is a meadow called Kingsmead near the city of Oxford, belonging to the king but very necessary for the men of the abbey's vill called Hinksey, for they could certainly be seen to be short of pastures for their cattle. For this reason, although in the presence of the king's reeve who was responsible for the place they were involved in many requests to have that pasture, he would now scarcely hear them in spite of being bribed in private with a gift, or he would now show himself deaf to his petitioners and give his attention elsewhere. Abbot Faritius asked for a remedy from the king, both to relieve the poverty of his men and on account of the shameless action of the reeve. Since he was unable to appropriate the meadow for himself outright, he at least secured that they should have it in fee farm for ever in return for paying 20s per year in the king's revenues, and on such terms that no sheriff might impose on them anything over and above that rent or demand from them any other customary payment other than what had been agreed. Letters concerning the king's grant were addressed by him to the county of Oxfordshire at that time in these words:*

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and William sheriff of Oxfordshire and all his barons there French and English greeting. Know that I have granted to the church of St Mary of Abingdon and to the monks of the same church the meadow called Kingsmead, which the men of Hinksey were accustomed to have at farm from Tilling, to have for ever for 20s per year on such terms that they render no other custom therefrom. And it shall be in their power that they shall do with it what they wish. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and Robert bishop of Lincoln and Haimo Dapifer and William de Curci and William sheriff of Oxfordshire and Theold the chaplain and Ralf Basset and Alfred of Lincoln. At Westminster.*

DATE: After Roger was nominated bishop of Salisbury, Michaelmas 1102; before William of Oxford ceased to be sheriff of Oxford, 1107 × 1111.

ADDRESS: The shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln; Haimo Dapifer; William de Curci; William of Oxford, sheriff; Theold the chaplain; Ralf Basset; Alfred of Lincoln. The attestation of Theold the chaplain depends on accepting the authority of the *Cartae Antiquae* roll [F] over the chronicle, which reads ‘Hoeldo’; the form Hoeldo is peculiar, though the name Hoel, Hoellus occurs in Normandy. Theoldus (written in a confusing diversity of spellings) is the name of a canon of Bayeux who was a royal chaplain and was nominated bishop of Worcester in 1113.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: Kingsmead lay outside the city, south and west of what is now the main stream of the Thames but still at the Oxford side of the Seacourt stream which formed the shire boundary. It is shown on the map in H. E. Salter, *Medieval Oxford*, Oxford Historical Society 100 (1936), facing p. 67, in a position close to Ferry Hinksey, and nearer to Folly Bridge on the map accompanying M. D. Lobel, ‘Some aspects of the Crown’s influence on the development of the borough of Oxford up to 1307’, *Beiträge zur Wirtschafts- und Stadtgeschichte. Festschrift für Hektor Ammann* (Wiesbaden, 1965), 65–83 (at p. 69).

The narrative may once more be extrapolated from the document it introduces; stories of grasping reeves are commonplace, and it adds no facts not found in the writ-charter. The document itself is clearer in saying that the use of the meadow had been available to the men of Hinksey in the past by rent from the king’s tenant Tilling, and what is secured from the king now is a permanent right to rent the meadow from the royal demesne for a fixed sum. The figure of 20s suggests that a considerable area of meadow was involved, probably larger than appears from Salter’s map. It is only from the king’s confirmation in 1114–15 that we learn that the abbey had previously paid 15s per year to the king’s reeves to have Kingsmead (000 § 4, *Regesta* 1092).

In 1130, however, under Oxfordshire the pipe roll refers to payment by the sheriff of 61s 7d ‘in Prato Regis falcand’ et in conductu feni usque ad Stuntefeldam et Vdestoc’’ (*PR 31 Henry I*, 1). The reference is surely specific, Kingsmead, rather than generic, an unspecified royal meadow. It appears, therefore, that Kingsmead had reverted to the royal demesne, apparently as a useful source of fodder for the king’s establishment at Woodstock.

## 00 Writ-charter instructing the shire courts of Berkshire and Oxfordshire that the church of Abingdon shall have its customs over river traffic as in King Edward’s time and after. 1107 × 1111, perhaps April 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 153r (‘De consuetudine nauium per Tam(isiam) transeuntium’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 142r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 40v (‘De consuetudine nauium’, no. lv, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. iv (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 16r [from C]; Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 155<sup>d</sup> (now fol. 95r) [‘in libro Abbendon. MS qui in 6 particulas diuiditur ubi plurimae sunt chartae antiquae’, from D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 95 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 77 (L124) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 138 (§ 135) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 253; *Regesta* 937.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rogero episcopo Salesb(er)ie et Roberto Linc(olie) episcopo et Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et Willelmo uicecomiti de Oxeneford et omnibus baronibus et ministris suis de utraque scira salutem. Volo et precipio ut ecclesia de Abbendona et monachi habeant suas consuetudines in nauibus transeuntibus, scilicet in accipiendis allecibus et in mercatis faciendis, sicuti unquam melius et plenius habuit tempore regis Eadwardi et patris et fratris mei et meo tempore. T(este) Willelmo episcopo Exonie. Apud Merlebergam. Et t(estibus) Eustachio de Britoil et Patricio de Cadurcis.

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Robert bishop of Lincoln and Hugh of Buckland and William sheriff of Oxford and all his barons and officials of either shire greeting. I will and command that the church of Abingdon and the monks shall have their customs in boats passing through, namely in receiving herring and in trading goods, just as ever it well and fully had in King Edward's time and my father's and brother's and my own. Witness William bishop of Exeter. At Marlborough. And witness Eustace de Breteuil and Patrick de Sourches.*

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 157v–158r (‘De consuetudine nauium’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 147v–148r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 119–20 [from C]; *English Lawsuits*, 159–60 (no. 191) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 174 (§ 172) [from BC].

Consuetudo huius ecclesie est a tempore domni Ordrici abbatis ut de unaquaque nauī Oxeneforde ciuitatis que transitum fecerit per aquam Tamisie prope curiam Abbendonensem, uersus australem scilicet partem diffluentem, cellarario centum allecia omni anno more debito reddantur, aut pro eis condignum pretium, ita ut nauium remiges, non interrogati, eadem cellarario deferant, a tempore uidelicet Purificationis sancte Marie usque ad Pascha. Quod si eorum aliquis hanc consuetudinem detinuisse inuentus fuerit, huiusmodi nauem cellararius, ne per aquam transeat ecclesie, iure detinet, donec sibi rectum faciat. Hanc ecclesie

consuetudinem, tempore domni Faritii abbatis, naute predictae ciuitatis moliti sunt ecclesie abripere, sed cito eos ab hac temeritate disratiocinatione iusta idem abbas repressit, ita ut eadem regi Henrico allegaret, et rex per sua breuia iusticiariis suis et uicecomitibus Berchesire et Oxenefordscire precipere, quatinus rectam iusticiam inde facerent, ne ecclesia ultra huiusmodi consuetudine sua careret. Itaque, eodem rege regnante, anno imperii sui undecimo, et Thoma de Sancto Iohanne ac Ricardo de Monte Oxenefordscire uicecomitibus constitutis, apud eandem Oxeneford ciuitatem in domo Hardingi presbiteri, de hac re placitum habitum est; et maiorum eiusdem loci communi iudicatum est decreto Abendonensem ecclesiam iustam rem exigere, et eam a ciuitatis totius nauigio debere omni anno persolui. Sequenti quoque post hoc anno, Radulfus cellararius, eisdem coadunatis Oxeneforde primoribus, questus est quod de quibusdam eorum nautis necdum iam decretam consuetudinem habuisset. Quibus ilico accersitis, precipitur manibus eiusdem cellararii debitum eidem ecclesie coram reddere. Et ita factum est, cunctis qui aderant testibus. Ad hanc disratiocinationem fuerunt hi presentes: Ricardus de Monte tunc uicecomes, Walterus archidiaconus, et multi alii.

*It has been the custom of this church since the time of Abbot Ordric that from every boat of the city of Oxford that shall make passage along the Thames near the court of Abingdon on the south side, one hundred herrings shall be paid to the cellarer as lawful custom, or an appropriate sum of money instead, on such terms that the oarsmen of the boats shall take them to the cellarer without being asked at any time between Candlemas and Easter. But if anyone shall be found to have withheld this custom, the cellarer has the right to prevent the offender's boat from passing through the church's water until he shall do what is just. In the time of Abbot Faritius the boatmen of the city endeavoured to take away this custom of the church, but the abbot quickly proved his just case against their rash conduct, for he put the facts to King Henry and the king commanded by his writs to his justiciars and sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire that they should do lawful justice in this matter so that the church was no longer deprived of this custom. And so it happened during the eleventh year of King Henry's reign when Thomas de Saint-Jean and Richard de Monte were sheriffs that a plea was heard on this subject at Oxford in the house of Harding the priest. It was judged by the common decision of the more important citizens of Oxford that the church of Abingdon made a just demand and it should be paid every year by the shipping of the whole city. And in the following year, when the same citizens of Oxford were meeting, Ralf the cellarer complained about some of their boatmen that he did not yet have the custom as the court had determined. They were at once summoned and ordered to pay into the cellarer's hands in the presence of the court what was due to the same church. And so it was done, and all who were present witnessed it. At this proof of right were present Richard de Monte, then sheriff, and Walter the archdeacon, and many others.*

DATE: After William Warelwast was nominated bishop of Exeter, 4 August 1107; before William of Oxford demitted office as sheriff, 1107 × 1111. The king kept Easter at Marlborough in April 1110, when William, bishop of Exeter, was present (000, *Regesta* 939 for Barnwell).

ADDRESS: The shire courts of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. On the precedence of the bishops, compare 000, 000, *Regesta* 613.

WITNESS: William Warelwast, bishop of Exeter; Eustace de Breteuil; Patrick de Sourches. The draftsman appears to have assumed that one witness only was intended, added two further names after the place-date with repetition of ‘T’ for *testibus*. This may be compared with the added clauses occasionally found with ‘T. eodem’.

PLACE: Marlborough, Wilts.

CONTEXT: The origin of the abbey’s custom in the time of Abbot Ordric is explained in Book I of the chronicle (Stevenson, i. 480–81; Hudson, i. 218, § 141). In the mid-eleventh century Oxford’s trade on the river was sufficient that the citizens had persuaded the abbey to dig a cut through the church’s meadow at the south side of Andersey island. This made for easier and more reliable navigation. In recognition of the monks’ long-term investment the city promised that each boat would pay 100 herrings per year for ever, and the chronicler there observed that it was still paid ‘to this day’. The twelfth-century treatise *De abbatibus Abendonie* gives a briefer account but associates the citizens of London and Oxford in the request to Abbot Ordric, evidence that river-traffic was more than merely local. The passage about Abbot Orderic’s work is translated and interpreted by J. Blair, ‘Transport and canal-building on the upper Thames, 1000–1300’, in J. Blair (ed.), *Waterways and Canal-Building in Medieval England* (Oxford, 2007), 254–94, at pp. 258. 266–8.

In Henry I’s time, the boatmen of Oxford were reluctant to pay this custom, and it appears to have given rise to recurrent problems. There are two writs copied into the chronicle which concern this payment, 000, *Regesta* 854, datable before 1107, and this one, datable no later than 1111. This contains a further custom, ‘in mercatis faciendis’, which the editors of *Regesta* interpreted as the right to buy goods, presumably from ships as they passed through, and therefore outside a recognized market. The narrative quoted above almost certainly refers to the two writs when it says that Abbot Faritus went to the king and obtained his writs addressed to the ‘justiciars and sheriffs of Berkshire and Oxfordshire’. Both order the sheriffs to enforce payment, and neither should have opened the way to a plea. Yet the narrator goes on to tell of further arguments in the eleventh and twelfth years of the reign, 1110–11 and 1111–12, when William of Oxford had been succeeded as sheriff by Thomas de Saint-Jean and Richard de Monte. The first concerns a hearing before the citizens of Oxford, presumably therefore in the borough court, meeting in the house of Harding the priest. A year later the monks went back to the court, and at this point we are told that Richard de Monte, then sheriff, was present as well as the leading churchman of the city, Archdeacon Walter, and many others. If this was the borough court, then the sheriff was present only and not an active participant.

00     Writ instructing the sheriff of Berkshire and all sheriffs  
and officials that goods for use of the abbot and monks

shall be exempt from toll and passage. January 1107 ×  
April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 150v ('Item de theloneo') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 139r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 79 [B]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 106 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 116–18 (§ 96) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 163; *Regesta* 938.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et omnibus uicecomitibus et ministris totius Anglie salutem. Precipio quod omnes res proprie abbatis et monachorum de Abbandona quod ministri sui uendiderint et emerint sint quiete de theloneo et consuetudine et passagio, unde homines sui affidare poterint quod sue sint. Et prohibeo ne aliquis eos disturbet super X lib(ras) forisfacture. T(este) canc(ellario). Apud Merleberiam.

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and all sheriffs and officials of all England greeting. I command that all their own property of the abbot and monks of Abingdon which their officials sell and buy shall be quit of toll and custom and passage, whereof their men are able to swear that they are for their own use. And I forbid anyone to disturb them upon £10 of forfeit. Witness the chancellor. At Marlborough.*

DATE: Formally datable only while Hugh of Buckland was sheriff of Berkshire and therefore not later than 1116 × 1117; before King Henry left England for the last time while Hugh was sheriff, April 1116. The formula *Teste cancellario* appears not to have been used by any chancellor before Ranulf, chancellor from January 1107.

ADDRESS: The sheriff of Berkshire and other sheriffs and their officials.

WITNESS: Ranulf, as chancellor.

PLACE: Marlborough, Wilts.

CONTEXT: One of three writs sealed on the king's wedding day provided exemption from toll (000, not in *Regesta*), and it was renewed in similar words in 1121 × 1133 (000, *Regesta* 1258). This writ is worded differently.

00 Writ-charter confirming the gift by Humfrey de Bohun to the church of Abingdon of two hides of land at Benham (Berks) held by Walter fitz Goscelin de la Rivera. 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 155v ('De II hidis apud Benneham. Carta Henrici regis de eadem terra') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 145r [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38r ('De ij hidis terre in Benham', no. xxxviiij, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 112r [E].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 16v [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 49r–v (no. 86) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 107–108 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 67–8 (L107, C298) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 158 (§ 156) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 250; *Regesta* 956.

Humfridus de Bohun, consistens cum abbate Faritio apud uillam suam, Wochesi nominatam, ecclesie de Abbendonam et abbati predicto duas hidas de Benneham ab omni clamore in perpetuum clamauit quietas. Et precepit Walterio de Ripario, qui easdem hidas de se ante hoc tempus recognouerat et tenuerat, postea de ecclesia Abbendonensi et de abbate recognosceret et in perpetuum teneret, et inde abbati, qui aderat, homagium faceret. Paruo post hoc interposito tempore, isdem Humfridus misit Serlonem capellanum suum cum Willelmo monacho et per eum de hac sua concessione saisiuit ecclesiam et abbatem de Abbendonam. His ita peractis, Walterius de Ripario (de quo superius diximus) Abbendoniam uenit, ibique abbati Faritio pro predicta terra homagium fecit, et eam de ecclesia recognoscendam et tenendam suscepit.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rogero episcopo Salesb(er)ie et Hug(oni) de Boch(elandam) et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis de Berchescira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse sancte Marie in Abbendonensi ecclesia et abbati Faritio et monachis duas hidas terre que sunt in Benneham quas Walterus filius Gotselini de la Riuera tenuit de Vnfrido de Bohun, quas idem Vnfridus tenebat et in presentia mea reddidit predictae ecclesie perpetue remansuras. Et uolo et precipio ut ita bene et honorifice illam terram teneat sicut melius et honorabilius tenet alias terras ecclesie. T(estibus) Waltero de Meduana et Widone de Clermunt et Radulfo de Todeneio et Drocone de Monceio et Lu<p>ello<sup>a</sup> de Brielual et Ricardo de Merei et Willelmo de Albinni et Rotberto de Dunestanuilla et Areto

falconario et Patricio de Cadurcis. Apud Romesiam in anno quando rex dedit filiam suam imperatori.

<sup>a</sup> Lu\h/ello C Duhello B

*Humfrey de Bohun, lodging at his own vill called Oaksey with Abbot Faritius, quitclaimed from all claim forever to the church of Abingdon and to the foresaid abbot two hides at Benham. And he commanded Walter de la Rivera, who had previously acknowledged and held the hides of him, to acknowledge and for ever hold them of the church of Abingdon and of the abbot and to do homage for them to the abbot who was present. A little while after this Humfrey sent his chaplain Serlo with William the monk and through him seised the church of Abingdon and the abbot of this grant. When this was done, Walter de la Rivera, whom we have mentioned above, came to Abingdon and there did homage to Abbot Faritius for the foresaid land and received it to acknowledge and hold of the church.*

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Hugh of Buckland and all his barons French and English of Berkshire greeting. Know that I have granted to St Mary in the church of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and the monks the two hides of land at Benham which Walter fitz Goscelin de la Rivera held of Humfrey de Bohun, which the same Humfrey used to hold and in my presence restored to the foresaid church [to remain for ever]. And I will and command that he [sc. Faritius] shall hold that land as well and honourably as he well and honourably holds the other lands of the church. Witness Walter de Mayenne and Guy de Clermont and Ralf de Tosny and Drogo de Moncei and Luvel de Bréval and Richard de Merei and William d'Aubigny and Robert de Dunstanville and Aret the falconer and Patrick de Sourches. At Romsey in the year when the king gave his daughter to the emperor.*

DATE: The dating clause refers to the king's giving his daughter to the emperor. The marriage proposal was agreed at Whitsuntide 1109; Matilda travelled to the Continent during February–March 1110, and the formal betrothal took place in Utrecht at Easter 1110. The year 1110 is fixed on by the chronicle of Ramsey for a writ dated at Brampton and bearing the same dating-clause (000, *Regesta* 953); see also 000, *Regesta* 958 below, place-dated at Woodstock. Brampton and Woodstock both suggest Lent. The formula was used again at Windsor at Whitsuntide in 000, *Regesta* 944 for Canterbury St Augustine's. The associated aid, apparently to refill the treasury rather than to amass the 15,000 marks of silver sent to Germany, was collected in 1110 (000, *Regesta* 959). The wedding itself did not take place until January 1114, when Matilda was twelve years old. This chronology is treated in detail by K. Leyser, 'England and the Empire in the early twelfth century', *TRHS* 5th ser. 10 (1960), repr. in his *Medieval Germany and its Neighbours 900–1250* (London, 1982), 191–213 (at pp. 193–4).

ADDRESS: The shire court of Berkshire.

WITNESS: An extraordinary list of ten witnesses, all of them laymen, of whom several witness no other royal act. These are Walter de Mayenne, Guy de Clermont, William Lupellus (Luvel) de Bréval (a young man at this date), and Richard de Merei. Robert de Dunstanville also witnessed 000 below, *Regesta* 973. William d'Aubigny appears

frequently, Aret more rarely (see note on 000, *Regesta* 855), while Drogo de Moncei, Ralf de Tosny, and Patrick de Sourches have limited witness-profiles.

PLACE: Romsey, Hants.

CONTEXT: An estate at Benham (Berks) was held of the abbot as two hides by Walter de la Rivera in 1086 (*DB*, i. 58v; § 7. 16); it was held in 1066 by a woman named Edith. This property has been identified with Hoe Benham in the parish of Welford (Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 72). Like Beedon, the estate passed to Walter's infant son Walter, who was made ward of his uncle Goscelin de la Rivera (see note on 000, *Regesta* 553). The chronicle indicated that the young Walter had difficulty claiming his inheritance. If *filius* is correct here, it appears that he was ousted by his uncle who passed the estate to his own son, another Walter. If the true reading were *nepos*, however, then Walter fitz Walter would have succeeded to his father's land. Whatever the relationship, the story involves the younger Walter.

It is not apparent how Humfrey de Bohun (d. c. 1123) came to hold these two hides, but it may be presumed that it was through some arrangement during the period when Goscelin was at odds with the abbey. Humfrey had succeeded to estates in Wiltshire through his wife, Matilda, daughter of Edward of Salisbury. Humfrey's estate, however, was centred on Trowbridge (Wilts), which together with Oaksey (Wilts) and several other manors had been held in 1086 by Brictric, entered in the survey as a king's thegn (*DB*, i. 73v; § 67. 3–10). At Oaksey, in the upper Thames valley near Kemble (Glos), the motte and bailey known as Norwood castle was presumably built for Humfrey. Abbot Faritius's business at Oaksey may have been the recovery of the abbey's land at Benham, and it should be noted that the king's confirmation says that Humfrey 'restored' the land to the abbey. The chronicler makes the point that Walter's homage is also transferred to the abbot. But the Bohun interest, however it was acquired, was not quickly shaken off. A writ of Henry II, datable to 1165 × 1172, orders Humfrey de Bohun III (d. 1181) to do the abbot and monks full justice in respect of these two hides, 'quas Humfridus de Bohun auus tuus eis dedit sicut H. regis carta aui mei testatur' (H2/27; Lambrick & Slade, i. 68, L108, C299).

## 00 Writ-charter giving to the church of Abingdon the mill at Hennor. 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 148r ('De molendino quod dicitur Enora. Carta regis de molendino Enora') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fols. 135v–136r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38r ('De molendino de Henouere', no. xxxvij, omits most witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald*, 1543/4–1588), fol. 14v [from C]; Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 175 (now fol. 111v) [from C, omits tenor], p. 183 (now fol. 116v) [from D]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 46r (no. 65) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 85v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 64–5 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 67 (L106) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 96 (§ 72) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 273; *Regesta* 958.

Ad exitum burgi Abbendonensis pons, quo transitur cum fluuius Eoche exundat, habetur, iuxta quem australi in parte situm est molendinum ab incolis Einore appellatum, regio per id tempus fisco deditum. Huius molendinarius prata in uicino posita que abbacie iuris erant summergebat; aque etiam ductum quamdiu poterat, ne molendinum abbatis inferius positum moleret, sepe recludebat. Quare cum ob istiusmodi insolentiam frequenter notaretur, nec ideo ab hac proteruitate descisceret, abbas inde remedium, et futurum posteris loci Abbendonensis hac de causa prouectum multum utile et durable, acquisiuit. Nam plurimorum industria uirorum, et precipue Hugonis de Bochelanda, suo pro beneficio comitante sibi suffragio, adeo apud regis gratiam institit, ut dominatum ipsius molendini perpetuo ipse et ecclesia Abbendonensis, ea libertate qua hactenus constiterat, potiretur. Quo percelebrato, illud idem molendinum usibus elemosinarii monasterii, pro pauperum sustentatione, delegauit. Cuius rei testes sunt apices ea tempestate regis ad comitatum Berchescire directe, quarum iste extitit textus.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rogero episcopo Salesb(er)ie et Hug(oni) de Boch(elanda) et omnibus baronibus et fidelibus suis francis et anglis de Berchescira salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et perpetuo possidendum concessisse deo et sancte Marie in Abbendonensi ecclesia ad opus elemosine ipsius ecclesie quoddam molendinum quod uocatur Enora<sup>a</sup>, quod situm est super flumen Eoche, cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus, scilicet terra prato aqua pascuis et cum omnibus consuetudinibus suis, sicuti ego ipse melius et liberius et quietius illud molendinum unquam tenui in dominio meo. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Salesb' et Roberto episcopo Lincol' et Iohanne episcopo Bathense et Willelmo de Curci et Willelmo de Albini pincerna et Nigello de Oilli et Thoma de Sancto Iohanne et Radulfo Basset et Hugone de Bochelanda et Waltero de Gloec(estra) et Goisfredo de Clinctuna. Apud Wdestoca in parco in anno quo rex filiam suam Romano imperatori dedit.

<sup>a</sup> Henouera D

*As the road leaves the borough of Abingdon there is a bridge that is used when the river Ock is in flood. Near this on the south bank is a mill, called Hennor by the local people, which at that time belonged to the royal fisc. The miller of this mill used to flood the meadows nearby, which belonged to the abbey; and he used often to block the leet for as long as he could so that the abbey's mill downstream would not grind. Since he was well known for this kind of misconduct, and would not cease from his arrogant behaviour, the abbot obtained a remedy for this problem which would be useful and lasting for the future benefit of those who followed him in the church. With the support of many men, and especially of Hugh of Buckland, who received the benefit of prayers in return for his help, the abbot so worked on the king's grace that he, and the church of Abingdon, gained possession of that mill for ever on the same terms of liberty as it had hitherto stood. There was much rejoicing at this, and the abbot assigned that same mill to the almoner's use for the support of the poor. The evidence of this is the king's letter addressed at that time to the shire of Berkshire, whose text is as follows:*

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury and Hugh of Buckland and all his barons and sworn men French and English of Berkshire greeting. Know that I have given and granted to possess for ever to God and St Mary in the church of Abingdon to the use of the alms of the church a mill called Hennor, which is located on the river Ock, with everything pertaining to it, namely in land meadow water pastures and with all its customs just as I myself ever well and freely and quietly held that mill in my demesne. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and Robert bishop of Lincoln and John bishop of Bath and William de Curci and William d'Aubigny the butler and Nigel d'Oilly and Thomas de Saint-Jean and Ralf Basset and Hugh of Buckland and Walter of Gloucester and Geoffrey de Clinton. At Woodstock in the park in the year when the king gave his daughter to the Roman emperor.*

DATE: 1110. See note on 000, *Regesta* 956.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Berkshire.

WITNESS: This is a heavyweight witness-list, with three bishops and seven of the major courtiers with interests in Oxfordshire, including the sheriff, and the sheriff of Gloucestershire for good measure.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon. The specificity of 'in the park' is unique. Henry only began to stay regularly at Woodstock about this time, so perhaps this celebrates a new park. Another writ, relating to an aid and most likely to that associated with Matilda's betrothal to the emperor, is dated at Cornbury (000, *Regesta* 959), the hunting-lodge superseded around this time by Woodstock.

CONTEXT: The writ-charter conveys a royal gift, which may explain its impressive witness-list. It is not a generous gift, and that lends credibility to the otherwise uncorroborated narrative, which may be no more than a context note based on the document itself and the writer's knowledge of the topography of Abingdon. The Ock bridge has featured in a story earlier in the chronicle (§ 12). The mill, on the south side of the river, belonged to the royal manor of Sutton (as mentioned in 000, *Regesta* 1092). The mill is mentioned again in the summary of what Faritius did to increase the almoner's resources (§ 218). It appears, however, that the proceeds, amounting to 25s,

were transferred to the kitchen by Abbot Vincent (§ 252) or Abbot Ingulf (Stevenson, ii. 291).

00 Writ exempting five hides at Longworth (Berks) from the aid given to the king. November 1100 × April 1116, probably 1110

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 156v ('De V hidis apud Wrda') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 146v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xv), fol. 37v ('Item de predictis hidis', no. xxxvj, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 88r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 113 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 66–7 (L105) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 166 (§ 162) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 274; *Regesta* 959.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) R(ogero) episcopo et Herberto<sup>a</sup> camerario et Hug(oni) de Bochelanda salutem. Sciatis quod clamo quietas V hidas abbatis Faritii<sup>b</sup> de Abbendona de elemosina de Wrđa<sup>b</sup> de omnibus rebus, et nominatim de isto auxilio quod barones mihi dederunt. Et hoc dico sicut clamaui quietas eas per aliud breue meum in omni tempore. T(estibus) Eud(one) dap(ifero) et Ham(one) dap(ifero) et Willelmo de Curci et Nigello de Oili. Apud Corneb(er)iam.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Huberto D

<sup>b</sup> Worthe D

<sup>c</sup> Cornubiam D

*Henry king of the English to Bishop R(oger) and Herbert the chamberlain and Hugh of Buckland greeting. Know that I quitclaim the five hides of land at Longworth, held in alms by Abbot Faritius of Abingdon, of all things and in particular of that aid which my barons have given me. And I say this just as I have quitclaimed them at every occasion by another writ of mine. Witness Eudo Dapifer and Haimo Dapifer and William de Curci and Nigel d'Oilly. At Cornbury.*

DATE: While Hugh of Buckland was sheriff of Berkshire, and therefore not later than 1116 × 1117; before King Henry left England for the last time while Hugh and Faritius were alive in April 1116. Although Farrer was not aware of 000, *Regesta* 946 for Norwich, discussed under Context, he none the less inferred that the aid referred to here was that granted at the time of Matilda's betrothal in 1110 (Henry of Huntingdon, *Historia Anglorum*, VII 27, ed. Greenway, 456).

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland is addressed as sheriff of Berkshire, the officer of Berkshire who would have to deliver the aid to the collectors. Herbert the chamberlain

was one of the officials responsible nationally for the collection of the aid, and it is likely that Bishop Roger is mentioned here in his financial capacity rather than as the bishop presiding in Berkshire.

WITNESS: Eudo Dapifer, Haimo Dapifer, William de Curci are all royal stewards, whose witness may reflect the administration of aid-collection.

PLACE: Cornbury, Oxon. See note on 000, *Regesta* 958.

CONTEXT: Herbert the chamberlain had a leading role among the collectors of the aid for Matilda's betrothal in 1110, as appears from 000, *Regesta* 946 for Norwich, which refers specifically to 'the aid of my daughter' (*pro auxilio filie mee*) and which is addressed to Bishop Roger of Salisbury, obviously in a national capacity since he is not the local bishop here, H(erbert) the chamberlain, Ralf de Beaufeu as sheriff in Norfolk and Suffolk, and 'the collectors'. The five hides at Longworth had been exempted from geld earlier in the reign (000, *Regesta* 722), and that must be the writ to which this one refers.

## ABBOT FARITIUS: NOT LATER THAN 1117

00 Writ-charter confirming the gift by Adelina d'Ivry and her daughter Adeliza to the church of Abingdon of Fencott (Oxon). 1110 × 1116, probably Lent 1111

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fols. 149v–150r ('Carta regis de Fencota') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fols. 137v–138r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38v ('De una hida terre in Fencote', no. xliiij, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 15r [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: W. Kennett, *Parochial Antiquities of Ambrosden* (Oxford, 1695), i. 81 [brief abstract; from MS Dodsworth 105 fol. 2], and later reprints; Stevenson, ii. 73 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 70 (L113) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 108 (§ 83) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 316; *Regesta* 973.

Nobilis quedam matrona, Athelina de Iwreio uocata, Abbendonensi in uilla lecto egritudinis diu irremediabiliter decubans, apud locum qui Faincote dicitur, hidam unam, pro sui remedio perpetuo, ea per omnia libertate et usu quibus et ipsa ad illud tempus potita ibidem est, ad monasterii utilitatem ubi decubabat, perpetualiter contulit. Est quidem ipsa pecudum pasturis habilis. Dies huius donationis is<sup>a</sup> extitit quando sancti Augustini Cartaginensis episcopi memoria celebratur, concurrentium V per computationem. Post emensum uero annum, ipsa defungitur. Cuius die defunctionis, presente clero, plebe plurima, immo

abbate Faritio, nondum etiam defuncte cadauere tumulatum exposito, filia eiusdem, Adeliz dicta, maternum confirmavit donum sancte Marie in eius ecclesia Abendonie deuote id conferendo. Hec autem donatio facta est anno XI regni Henrici regis. Rex quoque idem confirmatum subscripsit ita.

<sup>a</sup> is conj. Stevenson ] his BC

Henricus rex Angl(orum)<sup>a</sup> Rotberto episcopo Lincolie et Thome de Sancto Iohanne et omnibus baronibus suis et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et anglis de Oxenefordscira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse deo et sancte Marie Abendonensi in ecclesia terram que est in Feincota, scilicet I hidam cum pratis et pascuis et omnibus sibi pertinentibus, quam Adelina de Iureio eidem ecclesie in elemosina dedit et Adeliz filia sua auctorizauit. Et uolo et precipio ut ipsa ecclesia in pace et quiete et solute illam terram cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus in perpetuum possideat. T(estibus) Nig(ello) de Oilli et Thoma de Sancto Iohanne et Hugone de Euremou et Goisfr(ido) filio Pag(ani) et Goisfr(ido) de Magnauilla et Rogero de Oilleio et Rotberto de Dunestauilla et Rad(ulfo) de Anseriiuilla. Apud Wodestoch in quadagesim(a).

<sup>a</sup> Angl(orum) D ] Anglorum BC

*A noble matron called Adelina d'Ivry lay in her sick bed in the town of Abingdon for a long time without hope of a cure. For her eternal cure she bestowed for ever one hide at a place called Fencott to the use of the monastery where she lay. This land is suitable for the grazing of cattle. The date of this gift was the day when the memory of St Augustine bishop of Carthage is celebrated, by the computation of five concurrents. After a year she died. On the day of her death, and while her body was still on view and not yet buried, her daughter Adeliza in the presence of the clergy, of a great crowd of people, and of Abbot Faritius himself, confirmed her mother's gift to St Mary in her church of Abingdon, devoutly bestowing it. This gift was made in the eleventh year of King Henry's reign. The king also put his name to the confirmation in this form:*

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and Thomas de Saint-Jean and all his barons and all his sworn men French and English of Oxfordshire greeting. Know that I have granted to God and St Mary in the church of Abingdon the land in Fencott, namely one hide with meadows and pastures and everything pertaining to it, which Adelina d'Ivry gave to the same church in alms and Adeliza her daughter consented. And I will and command that the church shall for ever possess that land with*

*everything pertaining to it in peace and quietly and absolutely. Witness Nigel d'Oilly and Thomas de Saint-Jean and Hugh d'Envermeu and Geoffrey fitz Pain and Geoffrey de Mandeville and Roger d'Oilly and Robert de Dunstanville and Ralf d'Aungerville. At Woodstock in Lent.*

DATE: On internal evidence, after Thomas de Saint-Jean succeeded William of Oxford as sheriff, 1107 × 1111; before Henry left England for the last time while Abbot Faritius was alive, April 1116. The gift is dated 28 August 1110, and, if one assumes that the confirmation was obtained within the year, this is most likely to date from Lent 1111 (Stevenson, ii. 539).

ADDRESS: Shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: The witnesses reflect local contacts to an unusual degree. Adelina d'Ivry was the widow of Roger d'Ivry, sworn brother of Robert d'Oilly (d. c. 1092); Robert and Roger held many properties jointly in 1086. Nigel d'Oilly, first witness, was Robert's brother and successor, and Roger d'Oilly, sixth witness, appears alongside Nigel in 000, 000, *Regesta* 701, 703; in 000, *Regesta* 683, he has the title of constable. Thomas de Saint-Jean, second witness, had succeeded to the lands of Roger d'Ivry, Adelina's husband.

PLACE: Woodstock.

CONTEXT: The narrative provides a precise date, which has presumably been taken from a deed in the name of Adelina d'Ivry, dated to the feast of St Augustine, 28 August in the eleventh year of the reign (1110); the reckoning of the year by concurrents agrees with this date (Hudson, ii. 108n). The chronicler's reference to the daughter's confirmation after a year intervenes in a way that could make for confusion. This introduces both the writ-charter above and a writ concerning the same property (000, *Regesta* 1133).

Fencott does not appear in Domesday Book, but it lies within the parish of Charlton-on-Otmoor, north of Oxford, which is entered in the survey in a displaced section of the lands of Hugh of Grandmesnil in Oxfordshire (*DB*, i. 224v). Charlton was assessed at ten hides and was held of Hugh by Roger d'Ivry, his son-in-law, husband of Adelina. She features in the survey in her own right as 'Uxor Rogerii de Iueri' (*DB*, i. 160r, 160v; §§ 55. 1–2), holding Islip and Oddington of the king 'in commendatione'.

## 00 Writ ordering Jordan de Sackville to restore to the church of Abingdon Ralf of Caversham's land, of which he had disseised it. 1107 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v ('De terra quam Radulfus de Chaureha dedit') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140r–v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald*, 1543/4–1588), fol. 15v [from C]; Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 176 (now fol. 113r) [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 48v (no. 81) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 87r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 85 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 99 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 429 (no. 36) ('debt and entry') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 126 (§ 112) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 318; *Regesta* 974.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Iordano de Sacceuilla salutem. Precipio tibi ut plenum rectum facias Faritio abbati et ecclesie de Abbendona de terra quam abstulisti eis, quam Rad(ulfus) de Cha<ur>esham<sup>a</sup> dedit ecclesie in elemosina. Et nisi sine mora feceris, precipio quod Walterus Giffardus faciat. Et si ipse non fecerit, Hugo de Boch(eland) faciat, ne inde clamorem audiam pro recti penuria. T(este) Goisfr(ido) de Magnauilla. Apud Wodestoc'.

<sup>a</sup> Chairesham from *Regesta* 979, which follows ] Chaisnesham B Caisnesham C

*Henry king of the English to Jordan de Sackville greeting. I command you to do full justice to Abbot Faritius and the church of Abingdon in the matter of the land which you have taken away from them which Ralf of Caversham gave to the church in alms. And if you do not do it without delay, I command that Walter Giffard shall do it. And if he does not do it, Hugh of Buckland shall do it, so that I hear no complaint in this matter for want of right. Witness Geoffrey de Mandeville. At Woodstock.*

DATE: The subject is closely linked to the next act, which was witnessed by Ranulf as chancellor and must be therefore no earlier than 1107; while Hugh of Buckland was sheriff of Berkshire and therefore not later than 1116 × 1117. The king left England in April 1116.

ADDRESS: Jordan de Sackville, against whom the abbey has made its complaint.

WITNESS: Geoffrey de Mandeville.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon. The dating of the document may be affected if one could determine more closely when King Henry began to stay at Woodstock. He is first known to spend Lent there in 1110.

CONTEXT: This writ results directly from a complaint against Jordan de Sackville. The next writ, 000, *Regesta* 979, addressed to the under-age Walter Giffard and his mother, may very well be the result of a further claim and represent the implementation of the first *nisi feceris* clause.

The mention of Hugh of Buckland in the second *nisi feceris* clause points to Berkshire, but the only land in Berkshire held in chief by Walter Giffard in 1086 was West Hanney, where he had seven hides in demesne and two hides tenanted (*DB*, i. 60r; Berks § 20. 1–2). It is perhaps more likely that the writ concerns land in Caversham, on the north bank of the Thames, in Oxfordshire, which was held by Walter Giffard as a manor of twenty hides in 1086 (*DB*, i. 157v; Oxon § 20. 1). Jordan de Sackville, son of Herbrand de Sackville and a famous knight (Orderic, VI 8, ed. Chibnall, iii. 256), appears before 1125 as a witness to an act of Stephen as count of Mortain for the priory of Eye (Stenton, *English Feudalism*, 265, no. 10). William de Sackville appears holding

one knight's fee in Buckinghamshire from before 1135 (*RBE*, 312), in the return made in 1166 in the name of the deceased Earl Walter Giffard (d. 1164). Further evidence of his connexion with the Giffard family is the fact that Jordan made a gift to the priory of Longueville, in Normandy, founded by Walter Giffard's father; his deed was printed from the original by P. Le Cacheux, *Chartes du prieuré de de Longueville* (Rouen, 1934), 8–10 (no. 7).

00 Writ ordering Walter Giffard and his mother to do right to the church of Abingdon respecting Ralf of Caversham's land. January 1107 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v ('Item de eadem terra') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald*, 1543/4–1588), fols. 15v–16r [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 87r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 85 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 99 [from Stevenson]; G. B. Adams & H. M. Stephens, *Select Documents of English Constitutional History* (New York, NY, 1901), 7 (in English) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 126 (§ 113) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 314; *Regesta* 979.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Waltero Giffardo et Agneti matri sue salutem. Precipio ut teneatis plenum rectum Faritio abbati de Abbondona de terra quam Radulfus <de> Chauresham posuit ad Abbandonam uestra concessione et unde ecclesia fuit saisita. Et ita facite, ne inde clamorem audiam pro recti penuria. Teste <R>annulfo<sup>a</sup> cancell(ario). Apud Windr(esores).

<sup>a</sup> *coloured initial missing B*

*Henry king of the English to Walter Giffard and Agnes his mother greeting. I command that you shall hold full justice to Faritius abbot of Abingdon in the matter of the land which Ralf of Caversham disposed of to Abingdon by your grant and whereof the church was seised. And do it so that I shall hear no complaint in this matter for want of right. Witness Ranulf the chancellor. At Windsor.*

DATE: After Ranulf's appointment as chancellor, early 1107; before the death of Abbot Faritius in 1117 and before the king left England for the last time while he was alive, April 1116. Walter Giffard is evidently still a minor (see discussion above, 000; Hudson, ii. 196, § 192).

ADDRESS: Walter Giffard and his mother Agnes, widow of Walter Giffard who died in July 1102. The younger Walter was a minor when his father died, and the mention of his mother here is evidence that he was still in her custody. Orderic, vi. 38, tells us that she was sister of Anselm of Ribemont and that she and Walter had been married for fifteen years before the younger Walter was born; after her husband's death she brought up her son and 'governed his paternal honour on his behalf for many years'. It appears that she was able to benefit from § 4 of King Henry's Coronation charter, witnessed by her husband, which allowed a widow to have custody of the children and estate.

WITNESS: Ranulf, as chancellor.

PLACE: Windsor.

CONTEXT: See note on preceding document.

00 Writ ordering Robert and Alfred, reeves of the count of Meulan at *Welegraue*, to respect the nearby lands of the church of Abingdon. January 1107 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150v ('De hominibus de Welegraue') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 138v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 77 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 109 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 114 (§ 91) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 289; *Regesta* 983.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Rotberto et Aluredo ministris comitis de Mellent de Welegraua salutem. Precipio uobis ut custodiatis omnes terras abbatis de Abbendona que circa uos sunt. Et ne patiamini ut aliquis per uos siue per alium quicumque in eis forisfaciat. Et ad minus<sup>a</sup> uolo et precipio ut ipse ita bene et quiete et libere teneat predictas terras sicuti erant solute et libere et quiete quando manerium de Welegraua erat in manu mea. Et homines sui sint in pace et sine calumpnia. T(estibus) Rann(ulfo) cancell(ario) et Iohanne de Baioc(is). Apud Niweb(er)iam.

<sup>a</sup> ad minus BC, *though, as Hudson points out, the reading makes no sense*

*Henry king of the English to Robert and Alfred officials of the count of Meulan at Welegraue greeting. I command you that you shall respect all the lands of the abbot of Abingdon that are near you. And you shall not allow that anyone, through you or another person, shall commit any offence in them. And at least I will and command that he shall hold the foresaid lands as well and quietly and freely as they were absolved and free and quit when the manor of Welegraue was in my hand. And his men shall be*

*in peace and without claim. Witness Ranulf the chancellor and John of Bayeux. At Newbury.*

DATE: After Ranulf became chancellor, January 1107; before the king left England for the last time while Count Robert of Meulan was living, April 1116. Perhaps the same occasion as the following act.

ADDRESS: Two local reeves, managing the count of Meulan's estate at *Welegraue*.

WITNESS: Ranulf, chancellor; John of Bayeux, chaplain.

PLACE: Newbury, Berks.

CONTEXT: Hudson comments that, 'The place concerned is uncertain, particularly in the context of a Beaumont connection'. The possibility that the compiler wrote a corrupt name must be allowed; in 000, *Regesta* 974, B has *Chaisnesham* for *Chauresham*. No satisfactory identification has been arrived at. The implied criteria are that it was held by King Henry at some point in the recent past and was now held by Count Robert of Meulan, that it was near enough to the abbey's lands 'circa uos' to justify the writ (and the distribution of the abbey's estates suggests that Berkshire and Oxfordshire are the likely counties, though Warwickshire is not ruled out), and seemingly that it was a large enough estate for the count to have two *ministri* associated with the place. The name of a royal manor given to the Count of Meulan in King Henry's time ought not to disappear from the record. Two places may be considered.

Walgrave (Northants), written *Woldegraue* in Domesday Book, included a small royal manor (Berks § 1. 17), a manor of the Countess Judith (§ 56. 40), and a half-hide held in chief by the Count of Mortain (§ 18. 79), whose tenant Robert was identified as Count Robert of Meulan (VCH *Northants*, v. 218) on the grounds that his son Robert de Beaumont, earl of Leicester, held this half-hide at the time of the Northamptonshire survey c. 1130 (VCH *Northants*, i. 381). This hardly seems sufficient estate to justify two *ministri* 'de Welegraue', and the abbey had no lands in the county.

Wargrave, *Weregraue*, in Berkshire (*DB*, i. 57r; § 1. 15), was favoured by Hudson. Wargrave appears as 'Walegraue' in a royal charter confirming the exchange of churches between Mont-Saint-Michel and Reading (0000, *Regesta* 1418), but this form is found only in the copy from France (*Ctl. Mont-Saint-Michel*, 177, no. 108). Among many references to Wargrave church in the Reading cartulary, only one has the spelling 'Wellegraue', but in both copies Reading monks needed an explanation, 'i. Weregraue' (*Ctl. Reading*, ii. 72–3), and this too comes from a French source, a letter from Abbot Roger of Mont-Saint-Michel. None the less, Wargrave was a large estate of 33 hides in the king's hands in 1086, and at the beginning of Henry II's reign, it was still royal demesne (VCH *Berks*, iii. 192). There is no evidence that it was ever held by Count Robert of Meulan unless, with circular reasoning, this act is taken as evidence. The count's sons, however, were pardoned danegeld in Berkshire in 1129–30, Robert of Leicester 24s, Waleran of Meulan 20s, and even his widowed sister-in-law the countess of Warwick 12s (*PR 31 Henry I*, 125–6). The abbey's only manor in this area is Whistley. The other estates in this hundred were also mostly royal demesne in 1086 (Remenham, Earley, Shinfield, Barkham, Swallowfield, and Finchampstead (*DB*, i. 57r; §§ 1. 16–21); the exception is Sonning, which was held by the bishop of Salisbury (*DB*, i. 58r; § 3. 1). Two of these manors—Swallowfield and Shinfield, but not Wargrave—became part of the fee of the earls of Warwick. This is clearly attested by the *Cartae baronum* in 1166 (*RBE*, 326), but it may be supposed to have happened when Henry de

Beaumont, brother of Count Robert of Meulan, was first made earl of Warwick in 1088. It would be a long conjecture to suppose that Count Robert had Wargrave at the time of this writ and that it stayed with his sons for a time before reverting to the Crown.

The editors of *Regesta* refer to lands of St Albans abbey at Wingrave (Bucks), apparently confused as to the beneficiary concerned, but add 'the connection with the Count is not clear'.

00 Writ prohibiting the sheriff of Berkshire and his officials from taking anything from the abbot's wood in the manor of Welford. January 1107 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v ('De bosco apud Waliford') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 83 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 122 (§ 107) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 984.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hugoni de Boch(eland) et ministris suis de Berchescira salutem. Prohibeo ne aliquis capiat quicquam de bosco abbatis de Abbendona quod pertinet manerio suo de Waliford, nisi licentia sui. Et ne patiamini ut aliquis quicquam inde capiat. T(este) canc(ellario). Apud Niweb(er)iam.

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and his officials of Berkshire greeting. I forbid anyone to take anything from the wood of the abbot of Abingdon that pertains to his manor of Welford except by his licence. And you shall not allow anyone to take anything therein. Witness the chancellor. At Newbury.*

DATE: After Ranulf became chancellor in January 1107, since no earlier chancellor attests without his initial; while Hugh of Buckland was sheriff of Berkshire, and therefore no later than 1116 × 1117; before King Henry left England for the last time while Hugh was sheriff, April 1116.

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland, as sheriff, and his officials in Berkshire.

WITNESS: Ranulf, as chancellor.

PLACE: Newbury, Berks.

CONTEXT: At Welford in western Berkshire the abbey had a large manor (*DB*, i. 58v; § 7. 13). Early writs have shown that there was friction with the king's forest interests in the area, but this one implies a conflict with the ordinary officials of the sheriff.

00 Writ-charter granting to the church of Abingdon the lodgings it had in Westminster Street as in King William I's time and after. May 1108 × September 1115

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150r ('Littere regis de domibus abbatis London(ie)') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 138r–v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 41v ('Licencia regis pro hospitio in Westmenstret', no. lxj) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 46v (no. 68) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 75 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 80 (L130) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 112 (§ 87) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 281; *Regesta* 980.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) R(icardo) episcopo Lond' et Hug(oni) de Boch(elandia) et baronibus suis omnibus et fidelibus London(ie) et Middelsexe salutem. Sciatis me concessisse ecclesie sancte Marie de Abbendona et Faritio abbati [perpetuo habenda] hospicia sua de Londonia in Westmenstretret cum omnibus rebus pertinentibus ad hospicia omnino ab omnibus quieta sicut melius unquam illa ecclesia et quietius habuit tempore patris et fratris mei. T(estibus) Grimaldo medico et Nigello de Albin. Apud Windr(esores).

*Henry king of the English to Richard bishop of London and Hugh of Buckland and all his barons and sworn men of London and Middlesex greeting. Know that I have granted to the church of St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius to have for ever his lodgings in London in Westminster Street with everything pertaining to the lodgings entirely quit of everything just as that church ever well and quietly had them in my father's time and my brother's. Witness Grimaldus the physician and Nigel d'Aubigny. At Windsor.*

DATE: After the nomination of Richard de Belmeis as bishop of London, 24 May 1108; before the confirmation of Abbot Faritius's acquisitions, 1114 × 1115 (00 § 16, *Regesta* 1092).

ADDRESS: Shire court of London and Middlesex.

WITNESS: Grimaldus the physician; Nigel d'Aubigny.

PLACE: Windsor.

CONTEXT: A story earlier in the chronicle tells us that Gilbert de Gant gave a house to Abbot Adelelm, 'in the road that goes to Westminster from London', named in this

writ-charter as Westminster Street. Gilbert resumed possession on Adelelm's death but restored the property to Abbot Rainald in 1085 (Stevenson, ii. 15–16; Hudson, ii. 18–20, § 17). The king's act uses *concessisse*, not *dedisse*, that is, he consents to the earlier unspecified gift. The site is also said to be 'super flumen Tamisie'. It must be a long plot of land, stretching from what is now the Strand as far as the Thames, close to or even under what is now Somerset House. At the entrance to the house was a chapel dedicated to the Holy Innocents. The first privilege of Pope Eugenius III in 1143 refers to the property as 'ecclesiam sanctorum Innocentium et hospitia uestra que iuxta ecclesiam sunt apud Landonias uia Westmonasterii' (Stevenson, ii. 192; Hudson, ii. 266, § 266). The writ-charter continues the abbot's possession of the property on the same terms, but there is no apparent reason why this confirmation was not obtained until 1108 at the earliest. It was seemingly regarded as a recent acquisition, for the lodgings in Westminster Street were included in the confirmation of Faritius's recent acquisitions in 1114 × 1115 (00 § 16, *Regesta* 1092). The chronicler provides no context but subjoins to this text a writ-charter and a writ concerning an extension to the abbot's site, the dwelling-site that had belonged to Aldwin in South Street (000, 000, *Regesta* 972, 982). This street presumably ran from Strand to the river. The possible date-range for this addition is much the same as that for this confirmation, but if the king's gift of Aldwin's house prompted Faritius to confirm his rights in the main site, he did not obtain the documents on the same occasion, for all three London texts have different place-dates.

00 Writ-charter giving to the church of Abingdon the house of Aldwin in South Street, London, next to the abbot's house. May 1108 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150r ('De terra quam rex dedit abbati Faricio apud Landoniam') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 138v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 46v–47r (no. 69) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 75–6 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 112 (§ 88) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 280; *Regesta* 972.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Ric(ar)do episcopo Lond' et Hugoni de Boch(eland) et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis de Londonia et de Middelsessa salutem. Sciatis me dedisse sancte Marie de Abbendona et Faritio abbati unam mansam terre que fuit Aldewini in Suthstreta iuxta hospicium abbatis predicti. Et uolo et precipio ut bene et quiete et honorifice teneat illam terram sicut quietius tenet ibi aliam terram suam. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Salesb' et Gilliberto de Aquila et Otuero filio

com(itis) et Grimbaldo medico et Waltero de Bellocampo.  
Apud Westmoster.

*Henry king of the English to Richard bishop of London and Hugh of Buckland and all his barons French and English of London and Middlesex greeting. Know that I have given to St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius one plot of land which belonged to Aldwin in South Street next to the lodgings of the foresaid abbot. And I will and command that he shall hold that land as well and quietly and honourably as he quietly holds his other land. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and Gilbert de l'Aigle and Otuer fitz Count and Grimaldus the physician and Walter de Beauchamp. At Westminster.*

DATE: After Richard de Belmeis was nominated bishop of London, 24 May 1108; before King Henry left England for the last time while Abbot Faritius was alive, April 1116. Gilbert de l'Aigle may have died a little before this.

ADDRESS: Shire court of London and Middlesex.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Gilbert de l'Aigle; Otuer fitz Count; Grimaldus the physician; Walter de Beauchamp.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: See 000, *Regesta* 980, and note there. It is not possible to propose a secure identification of Aldwin, though the fact that his house was in the king's hands to give to Abbot Faritius must restrict the possibilities. A second act, a writ addressed to the sheriff and officials of London, and in particular Rainer, *prepositus*, follows this in the chronicle (§ 89) and presumably in date (000, *Regesta* 982). It is not the order for livery of seisin but a warning to the reeve not to interfere with the abbot's quiet possession.

00 Writ instructing the sheriff and his officials of London that the land he has added to his earlier gift of lodgings in London shall be quit. May 1108 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150r–v ('Item de eadem terra') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 138v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 76 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 112 (§ 89) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 982.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(elandia) et omnibus ministris suis Lond(onie) et Reinero preposito salutem. Volo et firmiter precipio ut Faritius abbas de Abbendona ita bene et quiete habeat terram quam accreui ei ad hospicium suum sicut dedi ei per breue meum. T(estibus)

Rotberto episcopo Linc' et Iohanne capellano Baioc'. Apud Radingas.

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and all his officials of London and Rainer the reeve greeting. I will and firmly command that Faritius abbot of Abingdon shall have the land that I added to him for his lodging as well and quietly as I gave it to him by my writ. Witness Robert bishop of Lincoln and John of Bayeux chaplain. At Reading.*

DATE: Formally, before King Henry left England for the last time while Faritius was alive, April 1116. It must, however, be later than the king's gift of Aldwin's house to increase the abbot's lodgings in London (000, *Regesta* 980), and therefore not before May 1108. The editors of *Regesta* associated it with 000, *Regesta* 981, dated to 1111, which have two witnesses in common at the same place; both witnesses were often at court, and the king must have passed through Reading more often than we are aware of, so this association is not reliable.

ADDRESS: Hugh of Buckland, as sheriff, and his officials in London. Rainer may be the official against whom the abbot has lodged a complaint. S. Reynolds, 'The rulers of London in the twelfth century', *History* 57 (1972), 337–57, entertained the possibility that he was the reeve of the abbot of Abingdon.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln; John of Bayeux, chaplain.

PLACE: Reading, Berks.

CONTEXT: The writ results from a complaint by the abbot that his tenure of Aldwin's house is not recognized by local officials. Rainer may well be the offender, perhaps the reeve of Ossulstone hundred in which the house was situated.

00 Writ-charter of Queen Matilda notifying the shire court of Oxfordshire that Abbot Faritius has deraigned in the king's treasury at Winchester his rights in the manor and hundred of Lewknor (Oxon). July 1108 × May 1109 or perhaps August × Michaelmas 1111

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 157r ('De Leuechenora. Carta regine de Leuechenora') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 147r [C].  
 CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 41r ('Quod Leukenore nichil debet facere in hundred de Peritone', no. lvij, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: Bodl. MS James 8 (copied by Richard James, 1591–1638), pp. 89–90 (incomplete) [from C]; BL MS Harley 380 (copied for Sir Simonds D'Ewes, 1602–1650), fol. 42r (D'Ewes notes, 'Ex hac charta colligi possit Radulfum Basset et Galfridum Ridel justiciarios fuisse temp. H i, et assidisse ad scaccarium regis, et quod scaccarium regis tunc fuit Wintonie' [from C]; BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by

Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588*, fol. 16v [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 50v (no. 89) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 88r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: R. Brady, *A Complete History of England from the first entrance of the Romans under the conduct of Julius Cæsar, unto the end of the reign of King Henry III* (London, 1685), pp. 1–li [from C]; Stevenson, ii. 116–17 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 100 [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 79 (L127) (English abstract) [from D]; *English Lawsuits, 157–8* (no. 189) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 170 (§ 169) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 323; *Regesta* 1000.

Homines de hundredo Peritune moliebantur manerium huius ecclesie Leueconore appellatum suo iuri mancipari, sed is<sup>a</sup> abbas, in castello Wincestre coram episcopis Rogero Salesb(er)ienſe et Roberto Lincoliense et Ricardo Lundoniense et multis regis baronibus ratiocinando ostendit declamationem eorum iniustam esse. Quare iusticiariorum regis iudicio optinuit ut illud manerium nulli alteri hundredo nisi proprio debeat in aliquo fieri obnoxium. Sed quia rex tunc in Normannia erat, regina que tunc presens aderat taliter hoc sigillo suo confirmauit.

<sup>a</sup> is C ] his B

Mathildis Angl(or)um regina Roberto episcopo Lincoln' et Thome de Sancto Iohanne et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Oxenefordscira salutem. Sciatis quod Faritius abbas de Abbendona in curia domini mei et mea apud Wintoniam in thesauro ante Rogerum episcopum Salesb(er)ienſem et Robertum episcopum Linc(oln)ienſem et Ric(ardum) episcopum Lund(on)ienſem et <sup>a</sup>Will(elmo)<sup>b</sup> de Curceio et Adam de Portu<sup>c</sup> et Turstino capellano et Waltero de Gloec(estra) et <sup>d</sup>Herebert<o> cam(erario) et Willelm<o><sup>d</sup> de Erleio<sup>e</sup> et Gosfr(ido) fil(io) Herberti et Will(elmo) de Enesi et Radulfo Basset et Goisfr(ido) de Magnauilla et Goisfr(ido) Ridel et Waltero archidiacono de Oxeneford<sup>a</sup>, et per librum de thesauro disratiocinavit quod Leuecanora manerium suum nichil omnino debet in hundredo de Peritona facere. Sed omnia que debet facere, tantummodo in hundredo de Leuecanora facere debet, in quo hundredo habet ecclesia de

Abbondona X et VII hidas. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Salesb' et Willelmo de Curci et Adam de Portu. Apud Wincestram.

<sup>a-a</sup> Willelmum de Curceio &c. D, *omitting names*      <sup>b</sup> Will' B ] Willelmo C  
<sup>c</sup> Portu D ] Porto BC      <sup>d</sup> Herebertum cam' et Will(elmu)m B Herbertum cam' et Will(elmu)m C, *where ablative is required*      <sup>e</sup> Erleio B ] Oileio C

*The men of the hundred of Pyrton tried to impose their right over this church's manor of Lewknor, but the abbot showed that their claim was unlawful proving his case in Winchester castle in the presence of bishops Roger of Salisbury and Robert of Lincoln and Richard of London and many of the king's barons. For this reason he obtained by the judgement of this king's justiciars that the manor should not answer in any matter to any hundred other than its own. But since the king was at that time in Normandy, the queen who was present confirmed this by her seal:*

*Matilda queen of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and Thomas de Saint-Jean and all (the king's) barons French and English of Oxfordshire greeting. Know that Faritius abbot of Abingdon in my lord's court and my own at Winchester in the treasury, before Roger bishop of Salisbury and Robert bishop of Lincoln and Richard bishop of London and William de Curci and Adam de Port and Thurstan the chaplain and Walter of Gloucester and Herbert the chamberlain and William of Earley and Geoffrey fitz Herbert and William d'Anisy and Ralf Basset and Geoffrey de Mandeville and Geoffrey Ridel and Walter archdeacon of Oxford, and by the book of the treasury, has deraigned that his manor of Lewknor owes no service at all in Pyrton hundred. But everything that it ought to do, it ought to do only in Lewknor hundred, in which hundred the church of Abingdon has seventeen hides. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and William de Curci and Adam de Port. At Winchester.*

DATE: After Thomas de Saint-Jean became sheriff, 1107 × 1110; before Thurstan the chaplain was nominated archbishop of York, 15 August 1114. During this period, the king was in Normandy from July 1108 to May 1109 and again from August 1111 to July 1113. Round, *Feudal England*, 142, noted both possibilities; Farrer favoured the later. Thomas de Saint-Jean and Richard de Monte appear to have been joint sheriffs in 1110–11, but after that Richard acts alone. A handover at Michaelmas 1111 is the last possible date but the address to Thomas alone favours an earlier date. The editors of *Regesta* propose a session of the Exchequer at Michaelmas or Easter, placing the act in series under '1111, Sept. 30?'; but that goes too far in linking a hearing in the treasury at this early date with the later pattern of meetings of the court of Exchequer. Further discussed by R. Sharpe, 'The last years of Herbert the chamberlain', *Historical Research* 83 (2010), 588–601 (at p. 590).

ADDRESS: Shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury; William de Curci; Adam de Port, with precedence as the leading clerical and lay participants.

PLACE: Winchester.

CONTEXT: The narrative that introduces the act is entirely extrapolation from the document. The chronicler, however, provides valuable evidence—noted by Sir Simonds

D'Ewes—in saying that the case heard before the king's court 'in thesauro' was held in the castle at Winchester. No source provides a more direct statement that the treasury was in the castle at the west end of the city rather than in the palace immediately west of the cathedral, but whether what was true when the chronicler wrote in the 1160s was true already in 1108 or 1111 is uncertain. Statements by Orderic, writing around 1130, with reference to Henry I's seizing the treasury in 1100 and the contemporary *Gesta Stephani* about Stephen's receiving the treasury in 1135 both associate treasury with castle. It appears likely, therefore, that the king's treasury was in the castle at least by 1130 and possibly by 1100 (M. Biddle & D. J. Keene, *Winchester in the Early Middle Ages*, Winchester Studies 1 (Oxford, 1976), i. 304–5).

The details of the hearing in the king's court before Queen Matilda and so many named *curiales* at Winchester, and the reference to 'the book of the treasury', have made this a well-known document. It is discussed by Nicholl, *Thurstan*, 10, as a witness to the circle of men looking after the king's business when Thurstan was still a royal chaplain, though it should be emphasised that these are men who remained in England and did not accompany the king to Normandy. Fifteen are named, but the syntax is defective in BC, while D's omission of names denies us its help. The three bishops are named in the accusative after *ante*, and they must have been the justiciars of the Exchequer before whom the case was heard. They did not normally travel to Normandy. Twelve others are named, four in the ablative, two in the accusative, and others with the case hidden by abbreviation, but one must surely restore the ablative and assume that the change of syntax misled a copyist into two erroneous expansions. Most of the men have a known connexion with the royal household, and it is difficult to resist the inference that the twelve were empanelled as a jury. The first of the bishops and the first two of the other *barones* attest the act. Their names hardly help to improve the dating.

William de Courcy and Adam de Port were royal stewards; Thurstan, a clerk, was a royal chaplain; Walter of Gloucester was sheriff of Gloucester and a royal constable; Herbert the chamberlain had been a chamberlain of the treasury since the time of William I; William of Earley (the preferred reading over d'Oilly adopted by Stevenson and Hudson) was also a royal chamberlain; Geoffrey fitz Herbert occurs only here; William d'Anisy was a royal dispenser; Ralf Basset, Geoffrey de Mandeville, and Geoffrey Ridel are members of the court whose careers would rise to prominence over time. This appears to be the earliest appearance of Geoffrey de Mandeville at court, and it is the earliest record of Walter, archdeacon of Oxford (*Fasti*, iii. 35).

The *Liber de thesauro* is Domesday Book, which gives the assessment of the abbot's manor of Lewknor as 17 hides (*DB*, i. 156v; Oxon § 9. 1), a point mentioned in the writ-charter. The abbey had an abstract from Domesday Book, copied with the chronicle in MS B (Hudson's MS C), fol. 187v, 'Item in alio libro thesauri regis tempore Willelmi regis qui Angliam suo adquisiuit tempore scripto abreuiatio hidarum et descriptio taliter' (Hudson, ii. 380–86). That this was abstracted from Domesday Book is shown by its following the book's accidental omission of Wheatley (see note on 000, *Regesta* 961). This *abreuiatio* was copied at the end of another listing, 'De hundredis et de hidis ecclesie Abbendonensis in Berchescire sicut scriptura thesauri regis continet per hundreda singula dispositis' (Hudson, ii. 379–80). The supposition has been made that this was 'a pre-Domesday listing of hides' (S. J. P. Harvey, 'Domesday Book and Anglo-Norman governance', *TRHS* 5th ser. 25 (1975), 175–93, at p. 176).

The hundred of Pyrton has evidently claimed rights over the manor of Lewknor, which Abbot Faritius contested, arguing that the manor belonged to Lewknor hundred, in which the abbey was the largest landholder. The substance of the case cannot be inferred. In 1086 both Pyrton and Lewknor were among the 4½ Chiltern hundreds in the soke of the demesne manor of Benson (*DB*, i. 154v; § 1. 1; *VCH Oxon*, viii. 2), which may help to explain why this case was heard in the treasury at Winchester. Domesday Book rarely mentions hundreds in Oxfordshire, and when it does, it is most often to note that a particular manor belonged to one of these royal hundreds (which included land outside the county boundary, such as Tythrop in the parish of Kingsey, Bucks, marked as Lewknor hundred in *DB*, i. 155v; *Oxon* §§ 7. 5–6). Estates in Pyrton and Watlington are marked as Pyrton hundred (*DB*, i. 157r, 158r; §§ 12. 1, 15. 2, 28. 1).

00 Writ-charter granting an exchange of land in Oxford made between Abbot Faritius and Bishop Roger of Salisbury. November 1108 × April 1116, perhaps × August 1111

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 150v ('Littere regis de quadam terra in Oxeneford') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 138v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 85r [E].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 182 (now fol. 116r) [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 47r (no. 70) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fol. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 76–7 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, ii. 194 (C211) (English abstract) [from E]; Hudson, ii. 114 (§ 90) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 356; *Regesta* 1128.

Henricus rex Anglorum Roberto episcopo Linc' et Thome de Sancto Iohanne et Nigello de Oilleio et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Oxenefordscira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse escambium terre de Oxeneford iuxta ecclesiam sancte Fridesuithae quod fecerunt Rogerus episcopus Salesb(er)ie et Faritius abbas de Abbendona, uidelicet ut abbas predictus et ecclesia sua teneat et habeat illam terram quam predictus episcopus ei escambiauit, ita liberam et quietam ab omnibus consuetudinibus cum soca et saca et tol et team et infangentheof sicut ipse abbas melius tenuerat illam aliam terram quam episcopo escambiauit. T(estibus) Roberto episcopo Linc' et Herueo episcopo de Heli et Rann(ulfo)

cancell(ario) et Rotberto filio regis et Rann(ulfo) Meschino.  
Apud Radingas.

*Henry king of the English to Robert bishop of Lincoln and Thomas de Saint-Jean and Nigel d'Oilly and all his barons French and English of Oxfordshire greeting. Know that I have granted the exchange of land at Oxford next to the church of St Frideswide, which Roger bishop of Salisbury and Faritius abbot of Abingdon made, namely that the foresaid abbot and his church shall hold and have the land that the foresaid bishop gave in exchange, as free and quit of all customs with sake and soke and toll and team and infangthief just as the abbot himself had well held the other land which he gave in exchange to the bishop. Witness Robert bishop of Lincoln and Hervey bishop of Ely and Ranulf the chancellor and Robert the king's son and Ranulf Meschin. At Reading.*

DATE: After Thomas de Saint-Jean replaced William of Oxford as sheriff of Oxfordshire, 1107 × 1111, and after Hervey became first bishop of Ely, November 1108; before the king left England for the last time while Faritius was abbot, April 1116. Farrer proposes 1113 × 1116, without stated reasons, and is followed by *Regesta*. The succession of Richard de Monte as sheriff, apparently in 1111–12 (see note on 000, *Regesta* 937), surely restricts the possible date-range. Kealey, *Roger of Salisbury*, 121, dated the transaction between the bishop and the monks to 1111, the traditional date for the establishment of St Frideswide's; he dated the king's confirmation to 1113 × 1116, following *Regesta*. A date for this act before the king left England in August 1111 appears plausible. This may therefore be the earliest attestation of Robert the king's son (see Witness).

ADDRESS: The shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: Robert Bloet, bishop of Lincoln; Hervey, bishop of Ely; Ranulf the chancellor; 'Robert, the king's son'; Ranulf Meschin, a rare witness in this period. The attestation of Robert the king's son may signify Robert, future earl of Gloucester, or his half-brother Robert fitz Roy; 'Robert the king's son' next attests in 1113 (000, *Regesta* 1019 for Saint-Evroul) and 1115 (000, *Regesta* 1091 for St Davids)

PLACE: Reading, Berks.

CONTEXT: In 1086 Abingdon abbey held fourteen *mansiones* in Oxford (*DB*, i. 154r; § B8). The exchange is generally understood to have been made to allow Bishop Roger to enlarge the site of the canons of St Frideswide, though Lambrick & Slade offer a different interpretation (above, note on 000, *Regesta* 816). Discussed in the headnote to Oxford, St Frideswide's.

00 Writ prohibiting the king's constables from requisitioning lodgings in Abingdon without the licence of the abbot. November 1100 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151r ('Vt nemo hospitetur in hac uilla') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), p. 175 (now fol. 111v) [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 47v (no. 75) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 80 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 118 (§ 100) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1037.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus constabulis et omnibus fidelibus suis de curia salutem. Prohibeo ne aliquis hospitetur in uilla Abbendune, nisi licentia Faritii abbatis. T(este) Grimbaldo medico. Apud Oxeneford.

*Henry king of the English to all his constables and sworn men of the court greeting. I forbid anyone to lodge in the vill of Abingdon except by the licence of Abbot Faritius. Witness Grimaldus the physician. At Oxford.*

DATE: Before the king left England for the last time while Abbot Faritius was alive, April 1116.

ADDRESS: To all constables and sworn men of the king's court. The nearest comparable address greets a smaller circle of the king's court, 000 above, *Regesta* 961.

WITNESS: Grimaldus the physician.

PLACE: Oxford, Oxon.

CONTEXT: See note on 000, *Regesta* 961.

00 Writ-charter confirming Hubert de Montchesney's gift to the church of Abingdon of the church of Edwardstone (Suff), and of tithes and rights in Staverton (Suff) and Stanstead (Essex). July–August 1115

CHRONICLE COPIES FROM ABINGDON: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 147v ('Littere regis de ecclesia Eadwardestun') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 135v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Vespasian B. XV fols. 59–70 (transcribed by John Joscelyn, 1529–1603), fol. 59r ('Henricus rex de elemosina') [D, possibly from lost original]; BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 14v [from C]; Bodl. MS Twyne 22 (copied by Brian Twyne, 1581–1644), pp. 175–6 (now fols. 111v, 113r) [from C, omits tenor]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 45v (no. 64) [from C].

PRINTED: Dugdale, i. 469 ['fol. 137', from C], repr. *Monasticon*, iv. 96; Stevenson, ii. 62–3 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 92–3 (§ 69) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 358; *Regesta* 1089.

In comitatu Suthfolc habetur uilla Eadwardestun appellata, cuius dominus Hubertus de Monte Canesi dicebatur. Hic familiaritate abbatis Faritii adductus, ecclesiam predictae uille cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus monasterio Abbendonensi iure perpetuo donauit et coram deo et altari sancte Marie in Abbendonensi oratorio et coram abbate et fratribus eiusdem ecclesie et testibus Albrico scilicet iuniore de Ver et Ricardo Bisceat et multis aliis donationem ipsam confirmauit, anno XV regni Henrici regis, eo scilicet tenore, ut locus ille semper monachili consistorio frueretur et seruiretur, nullaque capellano eiusdem domini foret licentia ibidem indicere uel suscipere, etiam presente eodem domino siue ipsius familia, aliquid, nisi quod uelle monachorum illic degentium concederet. Quid uero aut quantum cum eadem ecclesia tunc temporis collatum fuerit, regie ad comitatum Suthfolc tunc directe littere attestantur, quarum forma hec fuit:

Henricus rex Anglorum Herberto episcopo de Norwic et uicecomitibus de Suthfolc et de Eastsexa et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis de utraque scira salutem. Sciatis quia ego concedo deo et sancte Marie in Abbendonensi ecclesia et Faritio abbati et omnibus successoribus suis et monachis eiusdem loci elemosinam illam quam Hubertus de Monte Canesi dedit predictae ecclesie, scilicet ecclesiam de Eadwardestuna cum terris et decimis et omnibus sibi pertinentibus iure, et insuper duas acras terre iuxta ecclesiam, et duas partes decime omnium rerum de Stauretona et de Stanesteda, et decimam de redditibus molendinorum et nemorum, et ubicumque porci sui fuerint in pasnagio erunt dominici porci abbatis sine pasnagio preter haiam de Stanestede, et decimam redditus turbarum de Stauretona, et quicquid pro dei amore accrescere uoluerit. T(estibus) Rannulfo cancell(ario) et Grimbaldo medico et <E>urardo<sup>a</sup> archidiacono et Waltero archidiacono et Willelmo de Abinni et Rogero filio Ricardi et Nigello de Oilli et Radulfo Basset et Goisfredo filio Pagani. Apud Wodestocam.

Descripta est autem huius concessionis carta anno ab incarnatione Dominica .M.C.XV. Sed et de mansione illic monachorum

Abendonensium, Radulfi archiepiscopi Cantuariensis ad Norwicensem episcopum huiusmodi littere tunc temporis transmissae fuerunt.

*Littere archiepiscopi Cantuariensis.*

Frater Radulfus indignus Cantuariensis ecclesie minister uenerabili domino et confratri Herberto Norwicensi dei gratia episcopo salutem et amicitiam et fideles orationes pro posse. Quia notam sancte prudentie uestre non ignoramus reuerentiam et religiositatem domni abbatis Abendonensis Faritii et totius congregationis illi a deo commisse, non est opus uobis eam intimare. Pro his igitur oratam esse uolumus caritatis uestre bonitatem, quatinus gratia dei cuius sunt et nostri qui uester sum et ipsorum etiam qui amici uestri et filii esse profitentur, quosdam fratres ecclesie in quadam ecclesia a quodam parrochiano uestro illis in elemosinam concessa paterna suscipiatis benignitate, et consilium et auxilium, pro ut potestis et scitis, amicabiliter prebeatis. Quod faciendo, deus omnipotens diu conseruet incolumem sanctam paternitatem uestram, nostri memorem. Valet.

<sup>a</sup> Iurardo, with added coloured initial I B

*In the county of Suffolk there is a vill called Edwardstone, whose lord was called Hubert de Montchesney. Brought here by his close relationship with Abbot Faritius, he gave to the monastery of Abingdon by right for ever the church of Edwardstone with all that pertained to it, and he confirmed that gift before God and the altar of St Mary in the church of Abingdon and before the abbot and brethren of that church in the presence of Aubrey de Vere the younger and Richard Bisceat and many others, in the fifteenth year of King Henry's reign. The terms were that Edwardstone should always enjoy the common life of monks and be served by them, and there would be no licence for the lord's chaplain there to command or take anything, even in the presence of the lord or his household, except what the will of the monks dwelling there should grant. The king's letters sent to the county of Suffolk show what property and how much was conferred along with the church at that time. The text reads:*

*Henry king of the English to Herbert bishop of Norwich and his sheriffs of Suffolk and Essex and all his barons French and English of either shire greeting. Know that I grant to God and St Mary in the church of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and all his successors and the monks of the same place the alms that Hubert de Montchesney gave to the foresaid church, namely the church of Edwardstone with all the lands and tithes rightly pertaining to it, and in addition two acres of land next to the church and two thirds of the tithes of everything of Staverton and Stanstead, and a tithes of the rents of mills and woods, and wherever their pigs are in pannage the pigs of the abbot's demesne shall be without (payment for) pannage except within the hedge of Stanstead, and a tithes of the rent of turfs from Staverton, and whatever he may wish to add for the love of God. Witness Ranulf the chancellor and Grimaldus the physician and Everard*

*archdeacon and Walter archdeacon and William d'Aubigny and Roger fitz Richard and Nigel d'Oilly and Ralf Basset and Geoffrey fitz Pain. At Woodstock.*

*The charter of this grant was written in 1115. At that time letters were also sent by Ralf, archbishop of Canterbury, to the bishop of Norwich concerning the dwelling at Edwardstone of monks from Abingdon:*

*Letters of the archbishop of Canterbury.*

*Brother Ralf unworthy servant of the church of Canterbury to his brother the venerable Dom Herbert by the grace of God bishop of Norwich greeting and friendship and faithful prayers to the best of his ability. Since we are aware that the reverence and devotion of Dom Faritius abbot of Abingdon and of all the congregation entrusted to him by God is well known to you, there is no need to mention it. It is our will that the goodness of your charity be beseeched for them that you should welcome with kindness certain brethren of that church for the sake of God, whose they are, and for our sake, who am yours, and for their own sake, who profess to be your friends and sons. A church has been granted in alms to them by someone within your pastoral care, and I ask you to show them guidance and help in a friendly manner so far as you are able and understanding. As you do this, God almighty shall keep you safe, Father, and mindful of us. Farewell.*

DATE: Without the support of the narrative, datable to 1107 × April 1116, i.e. after Ranulf became chancellor, and before the king's last departure from England while Faritius was alive. The narrative dates the transaction to the fifteenth year of the reign, August 1114–August 1115; since the king was out of the country from 21 September 1114 until July 1115, the possibilities are August–September 1114 or the brief period between his return to England in July 1115 and the new regnal year on 5 August. The chronicle notes that the document was drawn up in 1115, pointing to the narrowest possible date-range.

ADDRESS: Shire courts of Suffolk and Essex.

WITNESS: Ranulf, as chancellor; Grimaldus the physician; Everard of Calne, archdeacon of Salisbury; Walter, archdeacon of Oxford, who attests other acts for Abingdon; William d'Aubigny (probably *pincerna*); Roger fitz Richard de Clare; Nigel d'Oilly; Ralf Basset; Geoffrey fitz Pain.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon.

CONTEXT: Hubert de Montchesney's deed was preserved in the cartulary of Earls Colne (fols. 22r; Fisher, *Ctl. Colne*, 33, no. 64). The Abingdon Chronicle also goes on to copy a letter sent by Ralf, archbishop of Canterbury, asking Bishop Herbert of Norwich to receive the monks of Abingdon as holders of a church within his diocese (Stevenson, ii. 63; Hudson, ii. 94; Brett & Gribbin, *EEA xxviii Canterbury 1070–1136*, 46, no. 44, datable 1114 × 1117). Abbot Faritius established two monks at Edwardstone, with the approval of Bishop Herbert (though his act is thought to have been redrafted, *EEA vi Norwich 1070–1216*, 4–5, no. 4; entered on the margin of fol. 6v; Fisher, *Ctl. Colne*, 8, no. 14). The Abingdon chronicle at a later point refers to the renewal of Hubert's gift in 1120 by his son Gilbert fitz Hubert de Montchesney (Stevenson, ii. 161; Hudson, ii. 226–8, § 233); this is not mentioned in the Colne cartulary. In the time of Abbot Walkelin (1159–64) and Bishop William of Norwich, another son, Hugh fitz Hubert de Montchesney, gave the church of Edwardstone to the priory at Earls Colne; his deed,

which refers to King Henry's charter, indicates that the revenues continued to be used to maintain two monks at Edwardstone (fol. 22r–23r; Fisher, *Ctl. Colne*, 33–35, no. 65; *Monasticon*, iv. 101, no. xii). The Colne cartulary has preserved documents showing the continuing interest of the Montchesney family in the priory (*Ctl. Colne*, 33–40, nos. 64–75).

00 General confirmation, in beneficiary form, of recent gifts of land and property made to the church of Abingdon, many of them already confirmed by King Henry. August 1114 × September 1115

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 156r ('Carta Henrici regis de diuersis rebus quas abbas Faritius adquisiuit') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 145v–146r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 40r–v ('De v hidis in Wrthe, de molendino quod uocatur Henouera &c.', no. liiij, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 49v–50r (no. 87, omits preamble) [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 88r (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Dugdale, i. 105–106 ['fol. 147b', from C], repr. *Monasticon*, i. 521 (no. xxi); Stevenson, ii. 109–111 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 76–7 (L123) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 160–62 (§ 158) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 367; *Regesta* 1092.

Licet omnia mundi regna sint transitoria, per ea tamen conquiruntur eterna, si eorum diuitie rite tractentur et iuste dispensentur. Felix sane commercium ubi pro transitoriis semper manentia, pro terrenis celestia, commutantur. Vnde ego Henricus dei gratia rex Anglorum et dux Normannorum, inter cetera que deo auctore pro salute anime mee et parentum meorum, uxoris mee et filiorum in diuersis iam locis feci consilio baronum meorum hec que infra leguntur deo et sancte genitrici eius concessi in Abbendonensi ecclesia perpetuo iure manenda. Videlicet [1] V hidas terre quietas omnibus geldis et placitis et aliis rebus mihi pertinentibus in manerio eiusdem ecclesie quod dicitur Wrda ad opus elemosine. [2] Et quoddam meum molendinum proprium cum terris et aquis et consuetudinibus aliisque rebus sibi pertinentibus, quod uocatur Henoura, positum super flumen Eccam in manerio de Suttuna. [3] Et duas hidas terre que sunt in Beneham, quas Vnfridus de

Bohun in presentia mea et multorum baronum reddidit et concessit predicte ecclesie. [4] Et quoddam pratum nomine Kingesmeda in feudo firma perpetuo habendum pro XX solidis reddendis unoquoque <anno> quod ante reddebat tantum XV prepositis meis. [5] Et terram quam Algarus tenet in Abbefeld quam Nigellus de Oilleio reddidit eidem ecclesie in dominio habendam. [6] Et unam hidam in Westona in loco qui dicitur Wdemundesleia quam Droco de Andeleia dedit ecclesie, et comes Ricardus de Cestra fecit quietam de omni seruitio suo pro anima patris sui. [7] Et ecclesiam de Niweham cum terra sibi pertinente, et decimam eiusdem uille, et unam piscariam cum rebus sibi pertinentibus, sicut Willelmus de Curceio predicte ecclesie dedit in elemosina. [8] Et unam hidam in Feincotam cum pratis et pascuis et omnibus sibi pertinentibus sicut Adelina de Iureio dedit ecclesie in elemosina, et Adeliza filia concessit. [9] Et sartum quod Robertus filius Haimonis dedit ecclesie quod est inter Merlauam et Hamestede, sicut designatum fuit per barones ipsius Roberti. [10] Et terram Alwardi de Suttuna iuxta Colebroc, quam Milo Crispinus et uxor eius Mathildis dederunt ecclesie in elemosina. [11] Et terram Roberti filii Heruei, cum consuetudinibus quibus eam tenebat a Roberto Gernone domino suo qui eam dedit regine Mathildi uxori mee, et ipsa cum eo iam dicte ecclesie dedit in elemosina. [12] Et unam hidam cum dimidia uirgata in uilla que dicitur Holm, et dimidiam hidam in Estratona, sicut Henricus de Albinneio concessit ecclesie. [13] Et unam hidam in uilla Dumeltune quam Willelmus Goizenboeth dedit ecclesie, et comes Robertus de Mellent ex cuius feudo erat ante me auctorizauit. [14] Et in eadem uilla dimidiam hidam quam ego ipse concessi ecclesie in elemosina. [15] Et in uilla Chinsuetona ecclesiam et duas hidas de duodenis (*sic*) XX acris, et unam uirgatam, quas Albericus de Ver et uxor eius Beatrix et filii eius dederunt ecclesie pro anima Gaufridi filii sui. [16] Et hospicia sua que

sunt Lundonie in Westminsterstret. [17] Et terram quam Ricardus filius Reinfredi dedit ecclesie, et Willelmus Clemens ab eo tenebat, quam Brientius et Mathildis uxor eius concesserunt ecclesie. Signum regis Henrici +. Signum regine Mathildis +. Signum Willelmi filii regis. Signum Radulfi archiepiscopi Cantuariensis +. Signum Turstani archiepiscopi Eboracensis +. Signum Willelmi episcopi Wint(onie) +. Signum Willelmi episcopi Exonie +. Signum Teoldi episcopi Wirecestrie +. Signum Rogeri abbatis Fiscanni +. Signum Rann(ulfi) cancellarii Henrici regis +.

*Although all the kingdoms of the world are transitory, yet through them eternal kingdoms are acquired, if the riches of the world are rightly treated and justly spent. It is a fortunate trade that exchanges transitory things for things everlasting, earthly for heavenly. Wherefore I Henry by the grace of God king of the English and duke of the Normans, among those other things which I have done in several places at God's behest for the salvation of my soul and those of my relatives, my wife, and my children, have granted by the counsel of my barons these things that are written below to God and his holy Mother to remain for ever in the church of Abingdon, namely [1] five hides of land quit of all gelds and pleas and other things that pertain to me in the manor of the same church that is called Longworth to the use of alms; [2] a mill of my own, called Hennor and located on the river Ock in the manor of Sutton, together with the lands and waters and customs and other things pertaining to it; [3] two hides of land in Benham which Humfrey de Bohun restored and granted to the foresaid church in the presence of me and many barons; [4] and a meadow named Kingsmead to have at fee farm for ever for 20s per year which previously paid 15s to my reeves; [5] and the land that Algar holds in Abbeffeld which Nigel d'Oilly restored to the church to have in demesne; [6] and one hide in South Weston at a place called Wormsley, which Drogo des Andelys gave to the church, and which Earl Richard of Chester quitclaimed of all service to him for the soul of his father; [7] and the church of Nuneham with the land pertaining to it, and the tithe of the vill, and a fishery with the things pertaining to it, just as William de Curci gave them to the foresaid church in alms; [8] and one hide in Fencott with meadows and pastures and all things pertaining to it just as Adelina d'Ivry gave it to the church in alms and Adeliza her daughter granted; [9] and the assart which Robert fitz Haimo gave to the church between Marlow and Ackhamstead just as was marked out by the barons of the said Robert; [10] and the land of Aelward of Sutton near Colnbrook, which Miles Crispin and his wife Matilda gave to the church in alms; [11] and the land of Robert fitz Hervey, with the customs by which he held it of Robert Gernon his lord, who gave it to Queen Matilda my wife, and she with him gave it to the said church in alms; [12] and one hide with half a virgate in the vill of Holme, and a half hide in Stratton, just as Henry d'Aubigny granted to the church; [13] and one hide in the vill of Dumbleton which William Goizenboded gave to the church and which Count Robert of Meulan, to whose fee it belonged, authorized in my presence (sic); [14] and in the same vill half a hide which I myself granted to the church in alms;*

[15] *and in the vill of Kensington the church and two hides of twelve score acres, and one virgate, which Aubrey de Vere and his wife Beatrice and his sons gave to the church for the soul of his son Geoffrey; [16] and his lodgings which are in Westminster Street in London; [17] and the land which Richard fitz Reinfrid gave to the church, and William Clement held of him, which Brian and Matilda his wife granted to the church. + Sign of King Henry. + Sign of Queen Matilda. + Sign of William the king's son. + Sign of Ralf archbishop of Canterbury. + Sign of Thurstan archbishop of York. + Sign of William bishop of Winchester. + Sign of William bishop of Exeter. + Sign of Theulf bishop of Worcester. + Sign of Roger abbot of Fécamp. + Sign of Ranulf chancellor of King Henry.*

DATE: After the nomination of Thurstan as archbishop of York, 15 August 1114; before William Warewast, bishop of Exeter, left England for Rome, late September 1115.

ADDRESS: No address in diploma form.

WITNESS: In diploma form, the subscriptions of King Henry, Queen Matilda, and William Ætheling, the two archbishops Ralf of Canterbury and Thurstan of York, three bishops William of Winchester, William of Exeter, and Theulf of Worcester, the only attestation in a royal act of Abbot Roger of Fécamp (1107–1138/9, Orderic, vi. 140–42), and least of all Ranulf the chancellor.

PLACE: No place date.

CONTEXT: This act is referred to by the chronicler as the ‘*carta . . . que compilationem rerum exquisitarum per abbatem Faritium continet*’ (Stevenson, ii. 70; Hudson, ii. 104, § 79). Almost all of the transactions referred to were the subject of royal confirmations obtained by Abbot Faritius, though in one case (§ 16) the confirmation appears very late in relation to the acquisition of the property.

[1] Five hides at Longworth (Berks), acquired no later than 1105, and assigned by Abbot Faritius to the *ministerium elemosine*; see above, 00, 00, *Regesta* 722, 959.

[2] The king’s mill at Hennor, acquired in 1110; see above, 00, *Regesta* 958.

[3] Two hides given by Humfrey de Bohun at Benham, acquired in 1110; see above, 00, *Regesta* 956.

[4] Kingsmead, acquired no later than 1110; see above, 00, *Regesta* 970.

[5] The land of Algar at Abbefield, acquired no later than 1106; see above, 00, *Regesta* 700.

[6] One hide at Wormsley, acquired no later than 1106; see above, 00, 00, *Regesta* 693, 758.

[7] The church of Nuneham Courtenay, acquired no later than 1106; see above, 00, *Regesta* 699.

[8] One hide at Fencott, aquired in 1110 or 1111; see above, 00, 00, *Regesta* 973, 1133.

[9] Assart between Marlow and Ackhamstead, acquired no later than 1107; see above, 00 § 3, *Regesta* 813, 816.

[10] The land of Aelward at Colnbrook (Bucks), acquired no later than 1107; see above, 00 § 4, *Regesta* 813.

[11] The land of Robert fitz Hervey, given by Robert Gernon and Queen Matilda, acquired in 1104; see above, 00, 00, *Regesta* 674, 676.

[12] Land at Holm and Stratton, acquired in 1107; see above, 00, *Regesta* 812.

[13] One hide at Dumbleton, acquired in 1107 or 1108; see above, 00, *Regesta* 893. The words ‘ante me’ are taken from the deed of Count Robert and refer to William’s gift in his presence, not in the king’s presence.

[14] A further half hide granted by the king at Dumbleton, acquired no later than 1107; see above, 00, *Regesta* 701.

[15] The church of Kensington (Middx), acquired no later than 1107; see above, 00, *Regesta* 702. The accompanying narrative there refers to the additional one virgate and its confirmation here.

[16] Lodgings in the Strand, London, originally given to Abbot Adelelm in William I's reign but confirmed to Abbot Faritius since 1108; see above, 00, *Regesta* 980.

[17] Land at Wroxton (Oxon), acquired no later than 1115; no previous royal confirmation, but the Abingdon history contains a narrative explaining the circumstances of the gift by Richard fitz Reinfrid (Stevenson, ii. 108–9; Hudson, ii. 158–60, § 157). This quotes the witnesses to Richard's deed and refers to the consent of his lord Brian and his lady Matilda, who must be Brian fitz Count and his wife Matilda of Wallingford, daughter or widow of Miles Crispin. The deed was witnessed at Waddesdon (Bucks), which had been held by Miles in 1086, in the presence of Ruellent dapifer, Gilbert Pipard, Ralf Foliot, Hugh fitz Miles, and others. Hugh fitz Miles and Richard fitz Reinfrid appear alongside Miles Crispin as donors of land in Oxfordshire to the abbey of Le Bec in William I's time (W1/167).

AUTHENTICITY: Form and content show that this was drafted by the beneficiary with access to documents in the archive at Abingdon. There is nothing in the text to arouse any suspicion of fraud, but it is impossible to establish whether it was ever sealed by the king.

00 Writ instructing William de Pont de l'Arche and the reeve and collectors of Winchester that the abbot's lodgings at Winchester are exempt from gelds. August 1114 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 156v ('De hospicio abbatis apud Wintoniam. Carta de eodem hospicio apud Wintoniam') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 146r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 112 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 164 (§ 160) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1110.

Anno XV Henrici regis Willelmus Wintoniensis episcopus dum ecclesiam apud Clares dedicaret, concessit ecclesie sancte Marie Abbendonie, et abbati Faritio et omnibus successoribus eius post eum, et monachis ipsius ecclesie, locum sui hospicii quod est extra murum ciuitatis Wintonie, iuxta portam scilicet septemtrionalem eiusdem urbis, ab omni questu et consuetudine omnino in perpetuum quietum, preter redditum duodecim denariorum, qui ad festum sancti Michaelis officiali ipsius episcopi in eadem ciuitate sunt reddendi. Huic conuentioni affuit prior monachorum de episcopatu domnus Gaufridus, cum Antonio suo monacho, et concessis fauit, ita ut libenter episcopi preceptum reciperet

quo iussit in capitulo monachis suis hec ab ipso referri et confirmari. Hii testes interfuerunt: Henricus archidiaconus eiusdem episcopi, Stephanus archidiaconus, Richerus et Alfricus archidiaconi, et multi alii.

Henricus rex Anglorum Willelmo de Pontearcharum et preposito et collectoribus Wintonie salutem. Volo et precipio quod domus Faritii abbatis de Abbendona quam habet in Wintonia sit quieta ab omnibus geldis scottis et auxiliis et omnibus rebus. T(este) Waltero de Gloec(estra).

*In the fifteenth year of King Henry William bishop of Winchester, on the occasion of his dedicating the church at Kingsclere, granted to the church of St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Faritius and all his successors after him and to the monks of that church the site of his lodging which is outside the wall of the city of Winchester near the north gate of the city, entirely quit for ever of all demands and customs apart from a rent of 12d, to be paid to the bishop's official in the city at the feast of St Michael. Dom Geoffrey, prior of the monks of the cathedral church and Anthony his monk were present at this agreement. The prior consented to what was granted in such a way that he willingly accepted the bishop's writ whereby he instructed his monks in the chapter house that this was related and confirmed. These witnesses were present: Henry, the bishop's archdeacon, Archdeacon Stephen, and Richer and Alfric, archdeacons, and many others.*

*Henry king of the English to William de Pont de l'Arche and the reeve and collectors of Winchester greeting. I will and command that the house of Faritius abbot of Abingdon that he has in Winchester shall be quit of all gelds scots and aids and all things. Witness Walter of Gloucester.*

DATE: The narrative provides a date in the fifteenth year of the reign, 1114–15, for Bishop William's gift. The king's writ is likely to follow soon after the gift, evidently before the death of Faritius and probably though not certainly before the king left England in April 1116.

ADDRESS: William de Pont de l'Arche, as sheriff of Hampshire, and the reeve and revenue collectors of Winchester.

WITNESS: Walter of Gloucester.

PLACE: Omitted from the copy?

CONTEXT: The narrative appears to be based on a writ in the name of the bishop, addressed to the prior and convent, and witnessed by four archdeacons, Stephen and Henry who occur together in 1107 (*Fasti*, ii. 91); Richer, who occurs with Stephen as late as 1126 (*ib.* 92); and Alfric. Greenway conjectures that Henry was archdeacon of Winchester and Stephen archdeacon of Surrey; Richer and Alfric at this date may have been vicearchdeacons (Hudson, ii. 165n). The presence of Prior Geoffrey II (appointed by the bishop in 1111, died in 1126) is not unlikely, but it may have been inferred by the chronicler from the address clause of the bishop's act.

The king's act, referring to the house of Abbot Faritius, is presumably correctly associated with Bishop William's gift, though the chronicle has mentioned that in Abbot Rainald's time the abbot had lodgings outside the south gate of Winchester, where a deed was witnessed (Stevenson, ii. 22; Hudson, ii. 28, § 26). Neither house has been traced in the records of Anglo-Norman Winchester. The treatise *De abbatibus Abbendonie* mentions that Faritius acquired lodgings for himself and his successors in both London (000, *Regesta* 980) and Winchester (Stevenson, ii. 288).

00 Writ ordering the sheriff and justices of Berkshire that the suit against Osbert in the matter of a mare shall be heard in the abbot's court of Horner hundred. 1107 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 157r ('Carta de hundredo Hornimere') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fols. 146v–147r [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 34r ('Item de eodem hundred', no. xx, omits witnesses) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 115 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 97 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 416–17 (no. 8) ('writ of right') [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 58–9 (L89) (English abstract) [from D]; *English Lawsuits*, 164 (no. 199) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 168 (§ 167) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1111.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Hug(oni) de Boch(eland) et iustic(iis)<sup>a</sup> suis et omnibus baronibus suis francis et anglis de Berchescira salutem. Precipio quod abbas de Abbendonā habeat hundredum suum de Hornimera bene et in pace et honorifice sicut unquam antecessores sui melius habuerunt tempore patris mei et fratris mei et meo. Et nominatim placitum de equa, unde Osbertus calumpniatus fuit. T(este) canc(ellario). Apud Winton(iam).

<sup>a</sup> iustic' D ] iusticiariis BC

*Henry king of the English to Hugh of Buckland and his justices and all his barons French and English of Berkshire greeting. I command that the abbot of Abingdon shall have his hundred of Horner well and in peace and honourably just as his predecessors ever well had it in my father's time and my brother's and my own. And in particular the plea in the matter of a mare, of which Osbert was accused. Witness the chancellor. At Winchester.*

DATE: Formally before the death or retirement as sheriff of Hugh of Buckland, 1116 × 1117. The king left England in April 1116. No chancellor before Ranulf, appointed early 1107, is certainly known to have attested without his initial. The inclusion of justices begs a large question about when they first appear.

ADDRESS: The mention of the sheriff and *barones* is sufficient to point to the shire court. The mention of justices with the possessive adjective is unusual, and county justices should in any case have precedence before the sheriff. In this archive, however, they appear in only three acts, in every case following the sheriff; see also 000, 000, *Regesta* 1477, 1478. Are we perhaps to understand the judgement-finders of the shire court?

WITNESS: The chancellor, presumed to be Ranulf.

PLACE: Winchester.

CONTEXT: The case of Osbert and the mare is beyond recovery. The chronicler's rubric shows that to him the writ simply attested the abbot's rights in Horner hundred.

## 00 Episcopal writ of Bishop Roger ordering the restoration of the abbey's rights in the church of Kingston [Bagpuize] (Berks). Early 1113

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 158r ('Littere episcopi de ecclesia Kingestuna') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 148v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 121 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 104–5 [from Stevenson]; Keeley, *Roger of Salisbury*, 230–31 (no. 3) [from C]; Kemp, *EEA xviii Salisbury 1078–1217*, 6–7 (no. 5) (abstract); Hudson, ii. 178 (§ 175) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Not in *Regesta*.

Ecclesia de Kingestuna subest parrochiali ecclesie de Wrde, et hoc ab antiquo iure. Iccirco, cum ecclesia ipsa de Kingestuna dedicaretur cum cimiterio per domnum Osmundum episcopum, duo ex monachis nostris, Alfricus scilicet quondam prior et Motbertus, illic ceterorum fratrum loco consistentes, episcopo calumpniati sunt consuetudines matris ecclesie que est apud Wrdam. Quo tempore Rainaldus preerat ecclesie abbatis regimine. Itaque huiusmodi imposita calumpnia, postea a primis predicte uille senioribus consultum est, uidelicet Radulfo de Bachepuz et Athelelmo, quatinus annuatim ecclesie Abbendonie ad Pentecosten ab eis utrisque donarentur XVI denarii, id est due ore, et ad ecclesiam de Wrda similiter a singulis I acra (*sic*), I porcus, et I caseus. Sed mortuo Radulfo, cum eius filius Henricus sibi succederet, predictam persoluere pactionem neglexit. Verum eo tempore non multo postimprouisa morte sublato ex hac uita, frater eius Robertus heres illi factus est suarum rerum. Qui tempore XL<sup>a</sup> Abbendoniam ueniens, regnante tunc Henrico rege et domno Faritio existente abbate, promisit

coram multis testibus ab illo deinceps se redditurum predictam pactionem.

Rogerus episcopus Salesb(er)ie<sup>b</sup> Adelelmo de Kingestuna et Roberto de Bacepuiz salutem. Precipio uobis quod reddatis ecclesie de Abbendona rectitudines quas illi debetis de ecclesia uestra de Kingestuna. Et nisi feceritis, Ilbertus decanus interdicat diuinum officium apud Kingestona. Apud Westm(onasterium).

<sup>a</sup> XL BC ] Quadragesimali *Stevenson, Hudson*

<sup>b</sup> Saresb(er)ie C

*The church of Kingston is subordinate to the parish church of Longworth and this by ancient right. For that reason, when the church of Kingston and its burial ground were dedicated by the lord Bishop Osmund, two of our monks, Alfric the sometime prior and Modbert, being present there as representatives of the monastery, put a claim to the bishop for the customs of the mother church at Longworth. At that date Rainald governed the monastery as abbot. That is how the claim was made, and afterwards it was decided by the leading elders of the vill, namely Ralf de Bagpuize and Athelhelm, that 16d, or two ores, should be given every year to the church of Abingdon by each of them at Whitsun, and that one acre's grain (?), one pig, and one cheese should be given similarly by each one to the church of Longworth. After Ralf died and his son Henry succeeded him, he failed to pay what had been agreed. Not long afterwards he was carried from this life by an unexpected death and his brother Robert inherited all his property. He came to Abingdon during Lent—it was in the time of King Henry and Abbot Faritius—and promised in front of many witnesses that he would thereafter pay what had been agreed.*

*Roger bishop of Salisbury to Adelelm of Kingston and Robert de Bagpuize greeting. I command you to restore to the church of Abingdon the rights which you owe to it from your church of Kingston. And if you do not do it, Ilbert the dean shall interdict the saying of divine office at Kingston. At Westminster.*

DATE: Robert's compliance is dated by the narrative context (§ 36) to Lent 1113; the writ cannot long predate that, since Robert had only recently inherited.

ADDRESS: Adelelm of Kingston and Robert de Bagpuize, as the subjects of the complaint. Adelelm of Kingston and Robert's father Ralf de Bagpuize were lords of Kingston, 'eiusdem loci domini' (§ 36) and 'a primis predicte uille senioribus . . . uidelicet Radulpho de Bacheput et Athelelmo' (§ 174).

WITNESS: None, though Roger's episcopal acts often include witnesses.

PLACE: Westminster.

CONTEXT: As Kemp remarks, 'Though an episcopal act, the royal form of this order is notable' (*EEA xviii Salisbury 1078–1217*, 7). This is all the more surprising because the act is much earlier than any issued in Bishop Roger's name as viceroy.

The background is set out twice in the Abingdon history, first in a context far removed from that in which the writ is quoted (Stevenson, ii. 30–31; Hudson, ii. 42, § 36), and again as quoted above. The two accounts are verbally similar though not the same. In Abbot Rainald's time, Adelelm and Ralf de Bagpuize had set up a new parochial church in their manor of Kingston, which was consecrated by Bishop Osmund. This injured the parish church of Longworth, which belonged to the abbey. An agreement was struck, but the payments to Abingdon were not made by Ralf's elder son and heir Henry de Bagpuize. After his death, his brother Robert inherited, and according to § 36 went to the abbot, seeking to restore good relations; while § 36 implies that he was motivated by a wish to avoid his brother's early death, § 174 quotes this writ but does not mention its being obtained from Bishop Roger at Westminster.

In Lent 1113 King Henry was in Normandy. The form of the writ is strikingly royal, hence its inclusion here, though omitted by the editors of *Regesta*, and it is possible that Abbot Faritius sought help from the king's justiciars. None the less it seems more likely that Roger here acted only in his capacity as bishop of Salisbury in a case concerning parochial rights within his diocese (Kemp, *EEA xviii Salisbury 1078–1217*, 6–7, no. 5). Compare also a writ addressed to three archdeacons of his diocese for the abbot of Saint-Wandrille (ib. 12, no. 15; Kealey, *Roger of Salisbury*, 255–6, no. 20).

00 Writ instructing the shire court of Oxfordshire that the church of Abingdon shall hold its land at Garsington in peace and shall not respond to any claim. 1107 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 152v ('De terra Perchehaia') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 141r [C].

PRINTED: Dugdale, i. 105 ['fol. 143a', from C], repr. *Monasticon*, i. 521 (no. xix); Stevenson, ii. 89 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 107 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 130–32 (§ 121) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 365; *Regesta* 1132.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Ric(ardo) de Monte et omnibus baronibus francis et anglis de Oxenefordsira salutem. Sciatis quia uolo et precipio ut abbas Faritius et abbatia de Abbendona in pace et sine calumpnia omnium hominum teneant terram in Gersendona quam Perchehaia tenebat. Et nulli inde respondeant. Et ita bene teneant sicut abbatia tenuit tempore patris et fratris mei et meo. T(estibus) Iohanne episcopo Luxouii et Gilleberto filio Ric(ardi). Apud Windres(ores).

*Henry king of the English to Richard de Monte and all his barons French and English of Oxfordshire greeting. Know that I will and command that Abbot Faritius and the abbey of Abingdon shall hold in peace and without claim of all men the land in Garsington which Percehai used to hold. And they shall respond to no one concerning this. And they shall hold as well as the abbey held in my father's time and my brother's and my own. Witness John bishop of Lisieux and Gilbert fitz Richard. At Windsor.*

DATE: After Richard de Monte took over as sheriff of Oxfordshire, who appears alongside Thomas de Saint-Jean in 1110–11 and alone in 1111–12 (see note on 000, *Regesta* 937); before the king left England for the last time while Faritius was abbot, April 1116.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Oxfordshire.

WITNESS: John, bishop of Lisieux; Gilbert fitz Richard.

PLACE: Windsor, Berks.

CONTEXT: The chronicle sets out the complicated circumstances much earlier (Stevenson, ii. 34–5; Hudson, ii. 48–50, § 43). Gilbert Latimer held 7½ hides as the abbot's tenant at Garsington—Domesday Book calls him simply Gilbert, *DB*, i. 156v; § 9. 7—who had no sons but three daughters whose husbands were Ralf Percehai, Picot, and William de Botendon. Gilbert distributed Garsington between them as marriage portions. Ralf Percehai, however, died before his father-in-law, with the consequence that Picot, husband of the second daughter did homage to Abbot Rainald on behalf of the coheireesses; Ralf Percehai's widow and William, husband of the third daughter, were to contribute towards the service of one knight owed by Picot. Abbot Rainald imposed terms, against the wishes of Picot, William, and Ralf's widow, that the daughters and their husbands could not pass their interest in Garsington to their heirs. It would appear that Ralf Percehai's widow has by now died and Abbot Faritius has claimed the reversion of her portion, whether against her children or her married sisters.

00 Writ ordering the sheriff of Oxfordshire and Rainer of Bath to reseiſe Abbot Faritius of his land at Fencott, if he has been diſſeiſed, and to reſtore anything unjuſtly taken. Lent 1111 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. ix (s. xii), fol. 150r ('Item littere regis de terra de Fencota') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. vi (s. xiii), fol. 138v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 38v ('Item de eadem hida terre in Fenchote', no. xlv, omits witness) [D].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 73–4 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 108–9 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 451 (no. 76) ('novel diſſeiſin') [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 70–71 (L114) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 108–110 (§ 84) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 332; *Regesta* 1133.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Ricardo uic(ecomiti) de Oxenef(ord) et Rainero de Bada salutem. Precipio quod

Faritius abbas Abbendone ita bene et quiete teneat hidam terre de Fencota, quam tenuit de Adelina de Iuri cum omnibus rebus que ad eam pertinent sicut melius et quietius tenuit. Et si inde dissaisitus est, resaisiatur. Et bene et in pace teneat. Et siquid inde captum est, cito inde similiter resaisiatur. Et mihi faciat quod iuste facere debet. T(este) Nigello de Albinni. Apud Winc(estram).

*Henry king of the English to Richard sheriff of Oxford and Rainer of Bath greeting. I command that Faritius abbot of Abingdon shall as well and quietly hold the hide of land at Fencott which he held of Adelina d'Ivry with everything that pertains to it as he well and quietly had it. And if he has been disseised of anything, he shall be reseised, and he shall hold well and in peace. And if anything has been taken therefrom, he shall be likewise quickly reseised of it. And he shall do me what service he ought justly to do. Witness Nigel d'Aubigny. At Winchester.*

DATE: After Richard de Monte took over as sheriff of Oxfordshire, i.e. after 1107 × 1111. He appears alongside Thomas de Saint-Jean in 1110–11 and alone in 1111–12 (see note on 000, *Regesta* 937), and probably after the king's confirmation of the gift of Adelina d'Ivry, Lent 1111; before the king left England for the last time while Faritius was abbot, April 1116.

ADDRESS: Richard de Monte, as sheriff of Oxfordshire. Rainer of Bath was perhaps at this date a reeve in Oxfordshire, very likely the reeve responsible for Kirtlington hundred, in which Fencott lies; Rainer of Bath was later sheriff of Lincolnshire (000, *Regesta* 1652 for Burwell; *PR 31 Henry I*, 109).

WITNESS: Nigel d'Aubigny.

PLACE: Winchester.

CONTEXT: This writ follows the writ-charter by which King Henry confirmed to Abbot Faritius one hide of land in Fencott, the gift of Adelina d'Ivry (000, *Regesta* 973). It is likely that the confirmation dates from Lent 1111. The writ is the outcome of a complaint by Abbot Faritius to the king. The phrase 'si quid inde captum est' indicates that the cause of the complaint was the removal of goods from the estate, and it appears that there is the possibility that the abbey has also been disseised of land. It appears likely that the estate of the widow Adelina d'Ivry has been taken into the custody of the king's officials after her death, who are taking the proceeds of the land, and the abbot has had to obtain a writ to prevent what she had given to him from being taken into custody as well.

00 Writ ordering Bishop Roger of Salisbury to do justice to the abbot in the case of the men of Fernham (Berks), who have taken his hay by force. 1102 × 1133, probably c. 1110 × April 1116

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151v ('De hominibus de Fernham qui fenum abbatis acceperunt') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 140r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 48r (no. 79) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 84 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 98 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 124 (§ 110) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1800.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um Rogero episcopo Salesb' salutem.  
Mando tibi quod plenum rectum teneas abbati de Abbendona  
de hominibus meis de Fernham de feno suo quod ui ceperunt  
de prato suo. T(este) G(osfrido) filio Pagani. Apud Wodestoc.

*Henry king of the English to Roger bishop of Salisbury greeting. I order you to hold full right to the abbot of Abingdon regarding my men of Fernham in the matter of his hay which they took by force from his meadow. Witness Geoffrey fitz Pain. At Woodstock.*

DATE: Formally datable after Roger was nominated bishop of Salisbury, Michaelmas 1102; before the king left England for the last time, July 1133. The place-date at Woodstock points towards the years from 1110 onwards, and the chronicler placed it among the writs of Abbot Faritius's time. Current knowledge certainly suggests that the archive did not have writs on such minor matters obtained by any other abbot, so that a date before the king left England for the last time while Faritius was alive is very likely.

ADDRESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury. See Context.

WITNESS: Geoffrey fitz Pain, who witnesses four acts for Abingdon abbey. The others are 000, 000, and 000, *Regesta* 893 at Winchester, *Regesta* 973 at Woodstock, and *Regesta* 1089 at Woodstock, all of them relatively early in his career at court. He witnesses some seventy authentic acts between then and the king's death, but the majority belong to the last fifteen years of the reign.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon.

CONTEXT: Fernham is probably to be identified as the village of that name south of Faringdon (Berks). Hudson notes that it is not mentioned in Domesday Book and suggests that it was counted as part of the royal demesne manor of Shrivenham (*DB*, i. 57v; § 1. 33). The abbey's lands at Uffington (which the church 'from of old possessed in demesne', Stevenson, ii. 125; Hudson, ii. 182, § 180) very likely bordered the lands of Fernham.

The curious question here must be why the king ordered Roger, bishop of Salisbury, 'to hold full right to the abbot'. If we suppose that the abbot had gone to the king at Woodstock to complain about the disorder of the king's demesne tenants, why did the king not provide a writ ordering his reeve at Shrivenham to deal with the matter? Perhaps the simplest conjecture is to suppose that Bishop Roger was with the king at Woodstock and was ordered to go to Fernham himself, less than a day's ride, and sort the matter out.

00 Lost writ ordering the hearing of suit against Walter Giffard regarding Lyford in the abbot's court at Oxford. 1107 × February 1117

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 160v ('De Waltero Giffar') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 151v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 133–4 [from C]; *English Lawsuits*, 128 (no. 162) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 196 (§ 192) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Not in *Regesta*.

Walterus comes iunior, cognomine Gifardus, manerium VII hidarum quod uocatur Linford tenebat, et est ex iure ecclesie huius, sed ipse comes inde seruitium debitum contratenere moliebatur. Qua re industria abbatis Faritii tantum in hoc preualuit, ut idem comes coram episcopis Rogero Saresbiriensi ac Roberto Lincolniensi et multis regis baronibus ecclesie et abbatis homo efficeretur, eo tenore ut ex illa terra militis unius seruitium omnimodo reddat, quo alii ecclesie milites seruitia exhibent. Hec omnia disratiocinata fuere, precepto Henrici regis, apud Oxeneford in domo Thome de Sancto Iohanne, ubi abbas tunc curiam suam fecit, eo quod ille Thomas suus homo erat.

*Earl Walter the younger, surnamed Giffard, used to hold a manor of seven hides called Lyford which belongs by right to this church, but the earl attempted to withhold the service due therefrom. Abbot Faritius's effort prevailed to such an extent that in the presence of Bishop Roger of Salisbury and Bishop Robert of Lincoln and many of the king's barons the earl became the church's man and the abbot's on terms that he should render the due service of one knight altogether as the church's other knights do service. All these matters were deraigned by the king's command at Oxford in the house of Thomas de Saint-Jean, where the abbot at that time held his court, for that Thomas was the abbot's man.*

DATE: After Roger became bishop of Salisbury, Michaelmas 1102, and after Walter Giffard the younger came of age, not before 1107; before the death of Abbot Faritius, 23 February 1117.

CONTEXT: Walter Giffard the elder was the abbot's tenant for seven hides at Lyford in 1086 (*DB*, i. 59r; Berks § 7. 24). He was himself a Domesday commissioner, and his territorial holdings at that date amounted to more than a hundred properties, almost half of them in Buckinghamshire; under the year 1097 Orderic refers to Walter Giffard as earl of Buckingham (Orderic, v. 214), though when he was granted the county is not known. Orderic also tells us that Walter Giffard, earl of Buckingham, died in 1102 (Orderic, vi. 36). *Complete Peerage*, ii. 387, specifies 15 July 1102, citing M.I., that is the monumental inscription, presumably, from his tomb at Longueville. This case cannot have taken place earlier than October 1102, when Roger became bishop. The

case presupposes that Walter's son, also Walter Giffard (d. 1164), had come of age. He was a minor when his father died, and he appears to have been still a minor in or after 1107 (000, *Regesta* 979), but he was adult when he fought with Henry I at Brémule in 1119 (Orderic, vi. 236), and evidently already adult before the death of Abbot Faritius in February 1117. If we may take the words 'precepto Henrici regis' to refer to a writ (noting that the chronicler uses *preceptum* for a writ of the bishop of Winchester in § 159), Abbot Faritius had probably obtained a writ that allowed him to hear his suit against Walter Giffard in his own court. That is probably as much as one can infer. The chronicle also preserves a writ addressed to the younger Walter and his mother Agnes (000, *Regesta* 979), but that does not belong with this narrative, for it concerns a gift to Abingdon by Ralf of Caversham, a tenant of Walter Giffard.

The property in dispute lies in Berkshire, so there is no territorial reason for the abbot's court to sit in Oxford. None the less this was a customary place of meeting even for cases not concerning business in Oxfordshire. A writ from Abbot Vincent's time instructs the king's justice that the abbot shall hold his court in Oxford as his predecessors did (000, *Regesta* 1516).

## VACANCY

### 00 Lost writ(s) concerning possession of Langford mill, disputed between the abbey and William of Seacourt. After February 1117

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 158v ('De molendino de Langeford') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 149r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 123 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 130 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 180 (§ 178) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Not in *Regesta*.

Circa idem tempus defuncta Ansfrida, qua concubine loco rex ipse Henricus usus ante suscepti imperii monarchiam filium Ricardum nomine genuit, ac per hoc celebri sepultura a fratribus est tumultata<sup>a</sup>. Quare Willelmus filius eiusdem, quem de Anskillo marito suo, ante regis predicti filii partum iam mortuo, pepererat, molendinum de Langeford, quod sui fundum iuris pertinuerat, triginta solidorum persolutorium, proprio monachorum usui habendum, concessit, apud pontem Oxeneford positum, quod hactenus Baiewrde adiacuerat, cum omnibus sibi pertinentibus. Et ut inperpetuum firmum istud staret, idem Willelmus super altare sancte Marie donum huius concessionis posuit. Testibus domno Faritio abbate et toto conuentu, et Fulcone filio regis, et Ricardo pedagogo, et multorum aliorum testimonio. Post obitum uero abbatis

Faritii, conquestus est idem Willelmus regi, tunc in Normannia posito, de supradicto molendino, quia uidelicet ui potestatis predicti abbatis potius quam sue proprie uoluntatis ecclesia habebat. Quare regis mandato saisitus est inde. Sed postea legatione monachorum per Walterum, capellanum Willelmi de Bochelande, ueritatem rex cognoscens, precepit resaisiri ecclesiam. Qua propter postea Willelmus ipse de Seuecurda suam iniusticiam recognoscens, correxit quod egerat, ita ut in capitulo in perpetuum omnem calumpniam de ipso molendino clamaret quietam, et in ecclesia super altare donum per baculum illic impositum confirmaret.

<sup>a</sup> uidelicet in claustro ante hostium ecclesie ubi fratres intrant in ecclesiam et exeunt *add. C*

*About the same time Ansfrid died, of whom King Henry, taking her as a mistress, had sired a son Richard before he became king. For this reason she was buried by the brethren in a well-known grave (in the cloister, outside the south door by which the monks enter and leave the church). In recognition of this her son William, whom she had borne to her husband Anskill, who was already dead before she gave birth to the king's son, granted for the monks' own use the mill of Langford and its appurtenances, which was his by right and produced 30s income; it was located at the bridge of Oxford and had until then been part of Bayworth. In order that this should remain secure, William placed the gift of this grant on the altar of St Mary with the witness of Abbot Faritius and the whole convent, the king's son Fulk, Richard the schoolmaster, and many others. After the death of Abbot Faritius, the same William complained to the king, who was at that time in Normandy, that the church had the mill by force of the abbot's power rather than of his own will. By the king's writ, therefore, he was seised thereof. After this, the king learnt the truth from representations made on behalf of the monks through Walter, chaplain to William of Buckland, and the king commanded that the church should be reseised. Later, William of Seacourt himself admitted his unjust action and put right what he had done, so that in the chapter house he quitclaimed for ever any claim to the mill and in the church he confirmed his gift by placing a rod on the altar there.*

DATE: The wording is explicit that a writ was obtained after Faritius's death, 23 February 1117. William of Seacourt has petitioned the king in Normandy for this writ during the vacancy, February 1117 × November 1120. After that the monks petitioned the king, still it appears during the vacancy, and the king 'ordered' ('precepit') resiesin. A second writ is surely to be inferred, in the abbey's favour, but apparently duing the vacancy.

CONTEXT: This picks up a story from § 45 (see note on 000, *Regesta* 683) about Anskill of Seacourt, his widow Ansfrid, and their son, William of Seacourt. William has petitioned the king in Normandy, claiming that Abbot Faritius had obtained Langford mill from him against his will. The king's writ enabled William to be reseised of the mill, at which point the monks also petitioned the king and also obtained a writ ordering their reseisin. How much both parties invested in seeking these writs for the sake of annual revenue of 30s. can only be guessed.

Salter, *Medieval Oxford*, 15, equated Langford mill with Weirs mill, but the two are distinct though apparently close together (VCH *Berks*, iv. 408). ‘Langford’ is shown as a crossing of the Thames on the map in B. G. Durham & others, ‘The Thames crossing at Oxford: archaeological studies 1979–82’, *Oxoniensia* 49 (1984), 57–100), but that is not the site of the mill. Brian Durham refers to a plan of South Hinksey in New College Archives, which shows ‘Hinxney or Langford mill’ approached directly from ‘The Bridge or Horseway from Oxford to Abingdon’. This clearly matches the wording of the chronicle, ‘apud Pontem Oxeneford positum’, an expression used by the writer of the chronicle to designate the whole length of the causeway from the river-crossing at what is now Folly Bridge southwards along the Abingdon road and then south-westwards before higher ground is reached. The location of the mill is immediately north of the middle of three arches (shown as Redbridge arches on the 1984 map) where the causeway crosses the Hinksey stream after turning south-westwards towards the brick railway bridge known as Redbridge; on the south side of the causeway, the middle stream is marked on the plan as ‘The Streame from Langford Mill’. The Hinksey stream at this point is also the county boundary. The *pons Oxeneford* was built by Robert d’Oilly in the late eleventh century (Stevenson, ii. 25; Hudson, ii. 34, § 29). Ermenold and Godwin held a valuable *wicha* or pasture ‘iuxta pontem Oxeneford’ (Stevenson, ii. 140; Hudson, ii. 204, § 204), which in Abbot Ingulf’s time was granted in fee at a farm of 40s. to Nicholas the priest and his nephew Robert (Stevenson, ii. 176; Hudson, ii. 258, § 257). Bayworth still exists as a settlement in Sunningwell parish, between the village of Sunningwell and Bagley Wood; in the tenth century the name was applied to an estate of twenty-five hides (S 590; Kelly, *Abingdon*, no. 60), of which ten hides were still known as Bayworth in 1066 and 1086. This had been held in dower by Ansfrid, the mother of William of Seacourt (see note on 000, *Regesta* 683), but he had by now inherited the estate.

00 Writ of William the king’s son ordering William de Montfichet to reseise the church of Abingdon of Queen Matilda’s alms of Colnbrook (Bucks). May 1118 × May 1119

CARTULARY COPY: Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 117v [E].

PRINTED: Lambrick & Slade, ii. 263–4 (C319) [from E].

CALENDAR: Not in *Regesta*.

Willelmus filius regis Willelmo de Montefichet salutem. Precipio quod resaysias abbatiam Abendon’ de elemosina Colebrok quam regina mater mea ei dedit et concessit sicut erat inde saisita die qua Faritius abbas fuit uiuus et mortuus et die qua regina mater mea fuit uiua et mortua. Et si quid inde captum est, totum reddatur, et in pace teneat donec rex in

Anglia ueniat. Et nisi feceris, Willelmus de Boch(eland) et ministri sui <faciant fieri>, ita ne super hoc amplius inde clamorem audiam. Teste episcopo Sar'. Apud Wyndesor'.

*William the king's son to William de Montfichet greeting. I command that you shall reseise the abbey of Abingdon of the alms at Colnbrook which the queen my mother gave and granted to it just as it was seised thereof on the day when Abbot Faritius was alive and dead and on the day when the queen my mother was alive and dead. And if anything has been taken therefrom, all shall be restored, and it shall hold in peace until the king comes to England. And if you do not do it, William of Buckland and his officials shall cause it to be done, so that I hear no more complaint in this matter. Witness the bishop of Salisbury. At Windsor.*

DATE: After Abbot Faritius's death on 23 February 1117, and after Queen Matilda's death on 1 May 1118; before William *ætheling* ceased to act as regent when he joined his father in Normandy in May 1119. This writ must have been obtained while the abbacy was vacant, and the complainant was presumably the custodian of the revenues, Prior Warengar (Stevenson, ii. 159; Hudson, ii. 224, § 229).

ADDRESS: William de Montfichet is addressed only here and in the king's writ to the same effect a year or two later (00, *Regesta* 1402). He was the subject of the monks' complaint.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury.

PLACE: Windsor, Berks.

CONTEXT: Queen Matilda's alms at Colnbrook is surely to be taken for the gift of land in the parish of Langley (Marish), as appears from a second writ to the same effect (00, *Regesta* 1402), obtained after the king had returned to England. This act could no doubt have been included in that context, but the chronicler tended to seek out the king's acts for inclusion, and omission in this case is perhaps explained by its lacking the royal initial H.

The much earlier writ-charter survives (00, *Regesta* 674) by which the queen confirmed as her alms the gift by Robert Gernon of the land of Robert fitz Hervey at Colnbrook (Bucks), a short distance south from Langley Marish. When this gift was confirmed by the king (00, *Regesta* 676), the property was named as Wraysbury, a large manor that included both Colnbrook and Langley Marish; it was held by Robert Gernon in 1086 (*DB*, i. 149v; Bucks § 20. 1; Hudson, ii. 115 n. 270). The abbey also had a house at Colnbrook by the gift of Miles Crispin (Stevenson, ii. 97; Hudson, ii. 142, § 139). These two properties were confirmed to the abbey by the king many years before (00, *Regesta* 813). Pope Eugenius III's privilege of 1146 refers to the gifts of Miles Crispin and Robert Gernon in Colnbrook (Stevenson, ii. 192; Hudson, ii. 268, § 266).

Robert has died since 1114, when he granted the two churches of Wraysbury and Langley Marish to Gloucester abbey (000, *Regesta* 1026). Although he left two sons as his heirs, there is ample evidence that they did not succeed to his tenure in chief. Rather his property was held in chief by William de Montfichet, who also succeeded Robert as the king's forester in Essex. William witnessed a number of royal acts in the 1120s. It appears that William was reluctant to recognize that Robert had alienated the land of Robert fitz Hervey.

00 (Supposed) lost writ ordering that the abbey shall make its oath at the next meeting of the shire of Berkshire concerning the extent of its demesne exempt from payment of geld. 1119

SOURCE: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 164v ('De dominio huius ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 157v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 160–61 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 113 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 226 (§ 232) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 393; *Regesta* 1211.

Anno III post obitum abbatis Faritii cum adhuc abbatia hec in attentione abbatis fuisset, et consideratione regia ad id adipiscendum, dominium ecclesie erat quietum a geldis que exigebantur in comitatu uniuerso. Sed tamen in comitatu Berchescira, a collectoribus amplius exigebatur quam debebatur de gildatione ecclesie contingenti, et hoc frequenter. Vnde clamore apud regiam iusticiam facto, decretum est ut aliquis de ecclesia affidaret fide in comitatu predicto de quot hidis dominiis ecclesia deberet quietari, scilicet per episcopum Saleb(er)riensem Rogerum, et per episcopum Linc(oliensem) Robertum et Rannulfum cancell(arium), qui nominatim multum adiuuit inde, et Radulfum Basset. Itaque sedente comitatu apud Suttunam et Willelmo de Bochelande uicecomite existente, die lune post festum sancti Martini proximo Rogerus de Harteluilla homo ecclesie pro ecclesia affidauit fidem in manu ipsius uicecomitis uidente toto comitatu, quod de septies XX hidis de dominio deberet abbatia in Berchescira esse quieta quando gildaretur. Tunc erat collector comitatus Ædwinus presbiter de Celsi et <S>amuel filius eius. Ibi fuerunt de nostris Robertus sacrista, et Willelmus Brito, et alter Willelmus monachus, et Willelmus de Suuecurda, et Turstinus, et Radulfus camerarius, et multi alii.

*In the third year following the death of Abbot Faritius, while this abbey was still without an abbot, the demesne of the church—which was at the king's disposal—was exempt from the gelds that were demanded of the whole county. In Berkshire, however, more was demanded than was owed in accordance with the assessment attaching to the church, and this on many occasions. For this reason a complaint was made to the king's justice and it was decided that someone from the church should take an oath in the county court as to the number of hides for which the church was exempt, and this was to be done through Bishop Roger of Salisbury, Bishop Robert of Lincoln, Ranulf*

*the chancellor (who in particular was helpful in this matter), and Ralf Basset. And so, when the county court sat at Sutton and William of Buckland was the sheriff, on the Monday next after Martinmas, Roger of Hardwell, who was the church's man, made his oath on the hand of the same sheriff in the sight of the whole county that, whenever geld was collected, the abbey ought to be quit in respect of one hundred and forty hides in demesne. There was present at the time the collector for the shire, Edwin, priest of Cholsey, and his son Samuel. On our side there were present Robert the sacrist and William Brito and the other monk William and William of Seacourt and Thurstan and Ralf the chamberlain and many others.*

DATE: Faritius died on 23 February 1117; the third year following his death is February 1119 × February 1120; and the shire court met on Monday, 17 November 1119.

CONTEXT: Perhaps included because of the obscurity of the phrases, 'clamore apud regiam iustician facto' ('a complaint was made to the king's justice'), and 'decretum est' ('it was decided'). Did Farrer or the editors of *Regesta* infer that the king had ordered the matter to be referred to the shire court? The king himself was in Normandy at this date, but it would appear that the complaint had reached Bishop Roger, by now acting as viceroy, as well as Bishop Robert, Ranulf the chancellor, and Ralf Basset. It is hardly possible to infer that a writ was issued, but it is interesting evidence that the abbey had recourse to law even at a time when its interests were formally in the hands of the Crown.

## ABBOT VINCENT

00 Charter appointing Vincent as abbot of Abingdon and granting the judicial privileges held by his predecessors. January 1121 × January 1123, probably early 1121

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fols. 164v–165r ('Littere regis pro abbate Vincentio') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 158r [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 33v ('De donacione abbacie Vincencio abbati', no. xvj, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 123v [E].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 54v–55r (no. 103) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 162 [from C]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 57 (L85, C344) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 228 (§ 235) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 414; *Regesta* 1259.

Post III<sup>or</sup> annos redeunte rege de Normannia, erat enim ibidem tanto tempore diuersis causis occupatus, cum uenisset ad oppidum quod uulgo Windlesora nuncupatur, mox accesserunt ad eum quidam ex fratribus, humiliter rogantes ut ecclesie pastore uiduate secundum deum consuleret. Quos benigne consolans, iussit domum redire, precipiens ut

quinta die coram se apud Wintoniam cum priore adessent. Qui statuto die uenientes, coram rege ea que prius ceperunt rogare. Quibus optimatum suorum consilio tradidit in pastorem coram episcopis et baronibus suis quendam bone fame uirum nomine Vincentium ex Gemmeticensi ecclesia monachum, cunctis qui aderant id laudantibus. Quem fratres gaudenter suscipientes, peruenerat enim dudum fama bonitatis eius multociens ad eos, perduxerunt eum ad ecclesiam sibi commissam, comitante secum Rogero Salesb(er)isiensi episcopo multisque aliis famosis uiris. A quibus in sede pastoralis positus, domum sibi creditam sapienter gubernabat. Erat autem ualde benignus ac pietatis gratia plenus. Omnibus compatiebatur, omnes pio affectu deligebat. De quo et tales litteras totius regni Anglie primoribus misit.

Henricus rex Angl(orum)<sup>a</sup> archiepiscopis episcopis abbatibus comitibus baronibus uicecomitibus et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et anglis totius Anglie salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Vincentio abbati abbatiam de Abbendona cum omnibus rebus abbacie ipsi pertinentibus. Et uolo et firmiter precipio ut bene et in pace et quiete et honorifice et libere teneat cum saca et soca et toll et team et infangenetheof in burgo et extra burgum. Hamsocnam uero et grithbriche et forestal super propriam terram abbacie ei concedo sicut aliquis antecessorum suorum unquam melius et quietius et honorificentius et liberius tenuit cum omnibus aliis consuetudinibus suis. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Saresb(er)ie et Rannulfo cancell(ario) et Iohanne Baioc' et Willelmo de Pontearcharum. Apud Wdestocam.

<sup>a</sup> Angl(orum) D ] Anglie BC

*The abbey had been vacant for four years when the king returned from Normandy, for he had been so much occupied with a variety of business there. When he had come to the town called Windsor, some of the brethren soon approached him, asking humbly that he should provide for the church widowed of a pastor according to God. The king, consoling them in a kindly manner, ordered them to return home, commanding that on the fifth day they should be present before him at Winchester with their prior. Arriving on the appointed day, they began to make the same request as before in the king's presence. By the counsel of his barons he gave them as their pastor a man of good reputation named Vincent, a monk from the church of Jumièges, in the presence of bishops and barons, and all who were there praised the choice. The brethren joyfully*

*received him, for report of his goodness had reached them on many occasions long before. They brought him to the church assigned to him along with the bishop of Salisbury and many other well-known men. Placed by them in the pastoral chair he governed wisely the house entrusted to him. He was very kindly and filled with the grace of piety. He felt compassion for all, he loved all with fatherly affection. Concerning this the king sent a letter addressed to the great men of all England in the words:*

*Henry king of the English to the archbishops bishops abbots earls barons sheriffs and all his sworn men French and English of all England greeting. Know that I have given and granted to Abbot Vincent the abbey of Abingdon with everything pertaining to the abbey. And I will and firmly command that he shall hold well and in peace and quietly and honourably and freely with sake and soke and toll and team and infangthief within borough and without, but hamsocn and grithbrech and forestall over his own land of the abbey I grant to him just as any of his predecessors ever well and quietly and honourably and freely held with all its customs. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and Ranulf the chancellor and John of Bayeux and William de Pont de l'Arche. At Woodstock.*

DATE: After the nomination of Vincent as abbot of Abingdon, early in 1121; before the accident leading to the death of Ranulf the chancellor at Epiphany 1123. See Context.

ADDRESS: General address.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Ranulf the chancellor; John of Bayeux, chaplain; William de Pont de l'Arche.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon.

CONTEXT: King Henry arrived in England on 27 November 1120, and, after being told of the loss of the White Ship, he appears to have remained in seclusion, even spending Christmas in obscurity at Brampton. On 6 January 1121 he was at London to announce his intention of marrying Adeliza of Louvain, and next day he was at Westminster, when he began the process of filling ecclesiastical vacancies that had opened up during his absence from England, appointing Robert Peche as bishop of Chester, Richard de Capella as bishop of Hereford, and Herbert as abbot of Westminster (Eadmer, *Historia nouorum*, 291; John of Worcester, iii. 148). The wedding took place at Windsor on 29 January, and the king may have stayed there for some days after the wedding. Farrer plausibly inferred that the monks found the king here at this time. Henry postponed a decision for five days, instructing the monks to attend him at Winchester with their prior Warengar (who had been custodian of the abbey's revenues during the vacancy). The monks must have returned to Abingdon and then set out for Winchester without delay, while the king made the journey from Windsor to Winchester for the discussion described above, perhaps in the first half of February. In 1121 Ash Wednesday fell on 13 February, and the king was in the habit of spending Lent at Woodstock, which may provide the context for the place-dating of the writ. If we accept the narrative, the monks had followed the king from Windsor to Winchester to Woodstock before they obtained the writ of appointment. Bishop Roger then went to Abingdon to instal Vincent, a monk of Jumièges, who, it is implied, was there in Winchester. The king himself accompanied Archbishop Ralf to Abingdon to attend there on Sunday, 13 March, the consecration of Robert Peche as bishop of Chester at which the archbishop

and four other bishops were present (Eadmer, *Historia nouorum*, 293). This condensed sequence of events is possible but should not be treated with too much confidence.

00 Writ ordering William de Montfichet to allow to be in peace the land at Langley Marish (Bucks), which Queen Matilda had given to the church of Abingdon. January 1121 × June 1123

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150v ('De terra de Langelea') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fols. 138v–139r [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, 1543/4–1588), fol. 15v [from C]; BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 47r (no. 71) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 77 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 91 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 430 (no. 38) ('debt and entry') [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 114–16 (§ 92) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1402.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) W(illelmo) de Montefichet salutem. Permite esse in pace terram de Langelega quam regina Mathild(is) uxor mea dedit in elemosinam sancte Marie de Abbendona sicut melius unquam fuit in pace tempore antecessoris tui. Et quicquid inde super hoc cepisti, redde. Et nisi feceris, Willelmus de Boch(eland) faciat fieri, ne audiam inde clamorem amplius pro penuria recti et iusticie. T(este) Nigello de Albini. Apud Warengford.

*Henry king of the English to William de Montfichet greeting. Allow to be in peace the land of Langley Marish which Queen Matilda my wife gave in alms to St Mary of Abingdon just as ever it well was in peace in your predecessor's time. And whatever you have taken therefrom, restore. And if you do not do it, William of Buckland shall cause it to be done, so that I hear no more complaint in this matter for want of right and justice. Witness Nigel d'Aubigny. At Wallingford.*

DATE: After the king's return from Normandy in November 1120 (see Context), and surely soon after he resumed business; before William of Buckland was succeeded as sheriff of Buckinghamshire, 1123 × 1128. The editors of *Regesta* thought he had left office by Michaelmas 1124 and therefore proposed to take the king's next departure for Normandy in June 1123 as *terminus ad quem*.

ADDRESS: William de Montfichet, as the subject of the complaint. His *antecessor* was Robert Gernon. See 000, not in *Regesta*.

WITNESS: Nigel d'Aubigny.

PLACE: Wallingford, Berks.

CONTEXT: This is the second writ to the same effect. The first, not included in the chronicle, but preserved in the fourteenth-century cartulary, was issued in the name of William *atheling* during 1118–19 (000 above; not in *Regesta*). That writ looks ahead to the time of the king's return to England, and this was presumably therefore issued soon after the king resumed business at Epiphany 1121.

00 Writ instructing the king's justice of Oxfordshire that the abbot of Abingdon shall hold his court in Oxford, as his predecessors did, and his men shall not plead elsewhere unless they have failed to find justice. 1121 × 1127

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 165v ('De curia abbatis apud Oxeneford') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 158v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 33v ('De curia abbatis in Oxeneford', no. xvij, omits witnesses) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPTS: BL MS Cotton Otho D. IV (copied by Robert Glover, *Somerset Herald*, 1543/4–1588), fol. 17v [from C]; BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 89v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 165 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 121 [from Stevenson]; E. P. Cheyney, *Documents illustrative of Feudalism*, Translations and Reprints from the Original Sources of European History 4, no. 3 (Philadelphia, PA, 1898), 33 [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 57 (L86) (English abstract) [from D]; *English Lawsuits*, 210 (no. 244) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 232–4 (§ 239) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1516.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) Radulfo Basset salutem. Precipio quod facias habere Vincentio abbati Abbendone curiam suam in Oxeneford ita bene et plenarie sicut unquam ipsa ecclesia Abbendonensis uel aliquis antecessorum suorum melius et plenarius et honorificentius habuit. Et homines sui non placitent extra curiam suam, nisi abbas prius defecerit de recto in curia sua. Et sicut poteris inquirere per legales homines de Oxeneford quod habere debeat curiam suam. T(este) cancell(ario). Apud Wdestoca<m>.

*Henry king of the English to Ralf Basset greeting. I command that you shall cause Vincent abbot of Abingdon to have his court at Oxford as well and fully as ever the*

*church of Abingdon or any of his predecessors well and fully and honourably had it. And his men shall not plead outside his court, unless the abbot shall have first failed to do justice in his own court. And just as you will be able to discover from the lawful men of Oxford that he ought to have his own court. Witness the chancellor. At Woodstock.*

DATE: After Vincent was nominated abbot in 1121; before Henry left England for the last time while Ralf Basset was living, August 1127.

ADDRESS: Ralf Basset was not sheriff and so is likely to have been addressed as justice in Oxfordshire. The Berkshire membranes of the Pipe Roll include a sum of money 'de ueteribus placitis Rad(ulfi) Bass(et) comun(is) comitatus' (*PR 31 Henry I*, 123).

WITNESS: Perhaps Ranulf the chancellor, who died at New Year 1123; if later than that, Geoffrey Rufus the chancellor.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon.

CONTEXT: The abbot's court in Oxford is referred to in the Abingdon history as being held at that time in the house of Thomas de Saint-Jean, 'eo quod ille Thomas suus homo erat' (§ 192; 000 above). The business on that occasion concerned land in Berkshire, so that it would appear that the abbot's court in Oxford could hear suits from outside the borough or even shire. It may be wondered whether Thomas's house would be considered appropriate at a time when he was sheriff after 1110–11. We hear also of a case when Thomas was sheriff, which was held in the house of Harding the priest in Oxford (§ 172, 000 above, *Regesta* 937), but on that occasion the suit was heard in the borough court; and at a second hearing Richard de Monte, sheriff, was present. M. D. Lobel, 'Some aspects of the Crown's influence on the development of the borough of Oxford up to 1307', *Beiträge zur Wirtschafts- und Stadtgeschichte. Festschrift für Hektor Ammann* (Wiesbaden, 1965), 65–83 (at p. 68), treats the court in Oxford as concerned only with the abbot's soke in the borough but allowed that it might meet in the sheriff's house.

## 00 Interpolated writ-charter granting Horner hundred to the church of Abingdon as in King Edward's time and after. 1126 × 1127

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 165r ('De foro Abendon(ie). Carta regis Henrici de hundredo Hornimere') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 158v [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 34r ('Item de hundred de Hornemera', no. xxj, omits most witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 123r [E].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 380 (copied for Sir Simonds D'Ewes, 1602–1650), fol. 41v ['Cotton 327 fol. 61a', from B].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 164–5 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 133–5 [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 59 (L90, C341) (English abstract) [from DE]; *English Lawsuits*, 210–11 (no. 246) [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 230–32 (§ 237) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 533; *Regesta* 1477.

In diebus huius patris, quidam maligni abeuntes ad regem, adulando suaserunt ei ut hundredum de Hornimere huic ecclesie abriperet, simul et mercatum huius uille interdiceret, affirmantes suis mendaciis quod nunquam abbas huius loci in propria potestate illud habuerit, uel mercatum antiquitus in hac uilla extiterit. Quorum adulationibus rex commotus, quibusdam iustisoribus suis precepit questionem inde mouere. Qui priusquam rem sicut erat indagarent, totam abbatiam in forisfactum regis posuerunt. Quod cernens uir prudentissimus, tam seue tempestati se uiriliter obiciens, regem adiit, priuilegium regis Eadwardi protulit, et ut cunctis legeretur rogauit. Quod cum, rege iubente, Rogerus Salesb(er)iensis episcopus recitasset, cepit rex ab indignatione animum reuocare, leuius cum abbate loqui. At ille fauore baronum circumassistentium fultus, diligebatur enim ab omnibus eo quod esset munificus et largus, postulabat regem ut illud suo priuilegio et ipse confirmaret, sigillo muniret, promittens ei trecentas marcas argenti se daturum, si deinceps sic hactenus liceret sibi quiete et sine querela in propria illud potestate habere. Cuius precibus rex annuens, iussit que petebatur sine dilatione fieri. Sed et de mercatu uille, iussit similiter uoluntatem abbatis fieri, muniens ea que scribi precepit suo sigillo.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um episcopo Salesb' et uicecomiti et iustic(ie)<sup>a</sup> et omnibus baronibus et fidelibus suis francis et anglis de Berchesira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse deo et ecclesie sancte Marie Abbendone et abbati Vincentio et omnibus [abbatibus] successoribus suis et monachis ibidem deo seruientibus hundredum de Hornimera [iure perpetuo tenendum et habendum eis et omnibus successoribus suis in legitima et liberrima potestate sua et iusticia], sicut Eadwardus rex Anglorum dedit et concessit predicte ecclesie et per cartam suam confirmauit, [quam coram me et baronibus meis lectam esse testificor], et sicut pater meus Willelmus rex dona Eadwardi regis per cartam suam concessit et corroborauit. Et uolo et firmiter precipio ut abbas et monachi [presentes et futuri] predictum hundredum in pace et quiete et honorifice teneant cum omnibus consuetudinibus et quietationibus suis cum quibus melius et honorabilius tenuerunt tempore predictorum regum, [scilicet quod nullus uicecomes uel eorum ministri inde se quicquam intromittant,

sed ipsi libere iusticiam suam habeant et faciant]. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Sar', et Alexandro episcopo Linc', et Gaufrid(o) cancell(ario), et Roberto de Sigillo et Nigello nepote episcopi et Willelmo de Albini et Roberto de Oili et Rad(ulfo) Basset et Gaufrido de Clint' et Willelmo de Pont' et Milone de Gloec(estra) et Alberico de Ver et Willelmo de Alb(inni) Britone et Ric(ardo) Basset. Apud Lund(oniam).

<sup>a</sup> iustic' D ] iusticiariis BC

<sup>a</sup>Tunc abbas Vincentius tabulam sancti Athelwoldi ex auro et argento fabrifactam penitus eruderavit, e cuius pretio trecentas marcas et eo amplius collectas abbas dedit regi in confirmatione sue libertatis, ne si forte tempore succedente et malitia hominum crescente milites uel homines hundredi et mercatus libertatem propter adiutorium quasi suum proprium sibi uendicarent emptiticium.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a-a</sup> *added immediately before the document in C*

*In the days of this abbot [sc. Vincent] some wicked men went to the king and by flattery persuaded him to take Hormer hundred away from this church and at the same time to forbid the market in this vill, for they told lies, affirming that the abbot never had that hundred in his own power and that of old there was no market in this vill. The king was swayed by their flattery and ordered some of his justiciars to start a plea in this matter. Before they had learnt the facts of the case as they were, they put the whole abbey into the king's forfeit. Vincent, a most prudent man, saw this and manfully opposed the wild storm. He went to the king, presented the privilege of King Edward, and asked that it should be read out to everyone. At the king's command Bishop Roger of Salisbury read it aloud, and at this the king's earlier anger began to subside and he spoke more mildly to the abbot. The abbot trusted to the support of the king's barons in attendance, for he was loved by everyone on account of his great generosity, and asked the king that he should confirm this by his privilege and authenticate it with his seal, and he promised to give the king three hundred marks of silver if it were allowed to him to have that hundred hereafter (as he had had previously) quietly and without plaint in his own power. The king assented to his petition and ordered what he asked for to be done without delay. And in the matter of the market of Abingdon, he likewise ordered the abbot's will to be done, authenticating with his seal what he had ordered to be written.*

*Henry king of the English to the bishop of Salisbury and the sheriff and justice and all his barons and sworn men French and English of Berkshire greeting. Know that I have granted to God and the church of St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Vincent and all his successors [abbots] and to the monks serving God there the hundred of Hormer [to hold and to have by perpetual right to him and all his successors in their lawful and most free power and justice], just as Edward king of the English gave and granted to the*

*foresaid church and confirmed by his charter, [which I testify has been read out in front of me and my barons], and as my father King William granted and confirmed the gifts of King Edward by his charter. And I will and firmly command that the abbot and monks [present and future] shall hold the foresaid hundred in peace and quietly and honourably with all their customs and quittances with which they well and honourably held in the time of the foresaid kings, [namely that no sheriff or their officials shall interfere there in any way but they shall freely have and do their own justice]. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and Alexander bishop of Lincoln and Geoffrey the chancellor and Robert de Sigillo and Nigel the bishop's nephew and William d'Aubigny and Robert d'Oilly and Ralf Basset and Geoffrey de Clinton and William de Pont de l'Arche and Miles of Gloucester and Aubrey de Vere and William d'Aubigny Brito and Richard Basset. At London.*

*Then Abbot Vincent throughly stripped the Tabula of St Athelwold, which was made of gold and silver, from whose value he gave to the king three hundred marks and more that he had collected for the confirmation of his liberty. He did this against the possibility that, at a later time when the ill will of men might be greater, the knights or the men of the hundred and the market should not be able to claim on account of their help a share for themselves in the purchase.*

DATE: The editors of *Regesta* adduce the date on these terms: Nigel the bishop's nephew first attests in 1126; Ralf Basset does not attest English documents after 1127. It was perhaps the number of witnesses that led the editors of *Regesta* to guess at a date during the council at Westminster in May 1127.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Berkshire. It is not certain whether one should expand *iustic'* in the singular or plural, but there is evidence that Ralf Basset may have been the king's justice in the county in 1127 (000, *Regesta* 1516).

WITNESS: The number and seniority of the witnesses, a large group of trusted administrators, reflects the weight attached to reaffirming the abbot's rights. Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Alexander, bishop of Lincoln; Geoffrey the chancellor; Robert de Sigillo; Nigel, nephew of the bishop of Salisbury; William d'Aubigny, *Pincerna*; Robert d'Oilly (who would himself serve as sheriff in Oxford); Ralf Basset (who may have been justice in Berkshire at this time); Geoffrey de Clinton; William de Pont de l'Arche; Miles of Gloucester; Aubrey de Vere the younger; William d'Aubigny, *Brito*; Richard Basset.

PLACE: London.

CONTEXT: The narrative sets out all we know of the circumstances. The narrator has made a connexion between two writ-charters, this and 000, *Regesta* 1478, both placed at London and with shared witnesses, and introduced them with a story about a simultaneous assault on the abbey's rights to its private hundred and to its market. The charter of Edward the Confessor was very likely S 1066 (Kelly, *Abingdon*, 574–5, no. 149; Stevenson, i. 465–6). It is a vernacular writ (Harmer 5), whose authenticity has been questioned by Harmer, by Wormald, and by Kelly herself. The clause that is most obviously suspect is that excluding the sheriff or any of his hundred-reeves from the abbot's hundred, a passage which is no less suspect in the Latin act in King Henry's name. The passage added to the narrative in MS C relates that Abbot Vincent paid the king 300 marks to secure the abbey's privilege 'in his liberty' against 'the knights or men of the hundred' and to confirm the abbey's market. One cannot rely on more than a

century of monastic tradition to have correctly remembered the sum paid for particular privileges, still less as fines for particular charters, but monastic memory clearly attached great importance to this charter and that concerning the market.

AUTHENTICITY: Several phrases have an unmistakably improved sense to them. Henry did not refer to succeeding abbots in grants to abbeys, only to successors, nor did he use the gerundives of private deeds, ‘tenendum et habendum’. It would be most unusual for the king’s draftsman to define what he meant by holding the hundred in peace and quietly and honourably, so that the last phrase of the text is surely a local interpolation. The Abingdon historian does not interpolate in this way, at least no more than a word or two (see Headnote, 00), so he has surely copied a falsified document. The same falsified document was copied in the cartularies, and it served as the precedent for an authentic confirmation by Henry II for Abbot Walkelin in 1159 (H2/16; Stevenson, ii. 216–17; Hudson, ii. 298–301, § 290). The charter concerning the market was surely confirmed on the same occasion in Rouen.

## 00 Writ-charter confirming the abbey’s market as on the day when Vincent became abbot. January 1123 × March 1130

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 165r–v (‘De mercatu’ [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 138v [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 34v (‘De mercato attend(endo)’, no. xxiii, omits witnesses) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 85r [E].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 165 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 134 [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 60–61 (L93, C207) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 232 (§ 238) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1478.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) episcopo Sar’ [et]<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup>uic(ecomiti) et iustic(ie)<sup>b</sup> et omnibus baronibus et fidelibus suis de Berchesira salutem. Sciatis me concessisse ecclesie sancte Marie Abbendone et abbati Vincentio et monachis mercatum Abbendone sicut ecclesia predicta et abbates et ipse Vincentius abbas melius unquam melius et liberius habuerunt [et]<sup>a</sup> die qua abbatiam predicto Vincentio dedi. Et bene et in pace et honorifice et quiete teneant. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Sar’ et Gaufrido cancell(ario) et Gaufrido de Clint’ et Willelmo de Pont(earcharum). Apud Lund(oniam).

<sup>a</sup> et BC ] *om.* DE, *rectius*

<sup>b-b</sup> uic’ et iustic’ DE ] uicecomiti et iusticiariis BC

*Henry king of the English to the bishop of Salisbury and the sheriff and the justice and all his barons and sworn men of Berkshire greeting. Know that I have granted to the church of St Mary of Abingdon and to Abbot Vincent and the monks the market of Abingdon just as the foresaid church and the abbots and Abbot Vincent himself ever well and freely had it and on the day when I gave the abbey to the foresaid Vincent. And they shall hold well and in peace and honourably and quietly. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and Geoffrey the chancellor and Geoffrey de Clinton and William de Pont de l'Arche. At London.*

DATE: After Geoffrey became chancellor, January 1123; before the death of Abbot Vincent, 29 March 1130. Perhaps on the same occasion as the preceding act, with which the chronicle associates it; the shorter witness-list here does not allow the same degree of narrowing in the date-range.

ADDRESS: Shire court of Berkshire. See note on 000, *Regesta* 1477.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Geoffrey Rufus, chancellor 1123–33; Geoffrey de Clinton; William de Pont de l'Arche.

PLACE: London.

CONTEXT: This writ-charter is introduced by the same narrative as the preceding act. It was served as precedent for a confirmation by Henry II in 1159 (H2/14; Stevenson, ii. 218; Hudson, ii. 300–302, § 292). The two were surely confirmed on the same occasion in Rouen.

00 Writ ordering Warin the reeve of Southampton to restore to the abbot of Abingdon what he had taken in toll or custom on his household goods. *c.* 1110 × 1129, probably *c.* 1127

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151r ('Item ad Warinum prepositum') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139r–v [C].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 2188 (s. xvii), fols. 86v (abstract) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 80 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 118 (§ 98) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1510.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um War(ino) preposito Hamtune et ministris suis salutem. Precipio quod cito reddatis quicquid cepistis de proprio corredio abbatis Abbendonie de theloneo uel consuetudine, et amodo nichil capiatis de theloneo uel consuetudine uel passagio de corredio suo uel rebus quas homines eius poterint affidare esse suas proprias. T(este) Thoma de Sancto Iohanne. Apud Wodestocha.

*Henry king of the English to Warin reeve of Southampton and his officials greeting. I command that you shall quickly restore whatever you have taken from the household goods of the abbot of Abingdon by way of toll or custom, and hereafter you shall take nothing by way of toll or custom or passage from his household goods or property which his men are able to swear to be for his own use. Witness Thomas de Saint-Jean. At Woodstock.*

DATE: After the king began to stay at Woodstock, c. 1110; before the death of Thomas de Saint-Jean, probably 1129 (*PR 31 Henry I*, 3, 36, 124); and while Warin was reeve of Southampton. It is not known when he became reeve. Apart from this writ and 000, *Regesta* 1612 for Abingdon, Warin appears in this office also in two writs for the priory of St Denys in Southampton, 000, 000, *Regesta* 1507, 1508, both datable to the period when the king crossed the channel from Eling in August 1127. By this date he was also sheriff of Somerset and Dorset. The king remained in Normandy from August 1127 until July 1129. It is probable that the writ must be dated before the king left England, since by the time of his return Warin had most likely ceased to be reeve of Southampton, and Thomas de Saint-Jean may have died.

ADDRESS: Warin, reeve of Southampton, addressed also in 000, *Regesta* 1612.

WITNESS: Thomas de Saint-Jean, who was usually with the king at Woodstock.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon.

CONTEXT: One of two writs, copied together by the chronicler; the other is 000, *Regesta* 1612. Tolls have evidently been levied on goods destined for the monks, and the abbot has complained to the king. The fact that the tolls were imposed at Southampton suggests that the goods were imported by sea.

00 Writ instructing Warin the reeve of Southampton that the needs of the abbot of Abingdon shall be quit of toll and pasage. 1100 × 1129, probably c. 1127

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151r ('Littere regis ad prepositum de Hamt(one)') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139r [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 79 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 94 [from Stevenson]; Hudson, ii. 118 (§ 97) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1612.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um War(ino) preposito Hamtone et ministris suis salutem. Precipio quod uictus et uestitus abbatis de Abbendona et quicquid homines eius poterint affidare esse suum proprium sit quietum de omni theloneo et lestagio et consuetudine et passagio. Et siquid inde captum super hoc est,

cito reddatur. T(este) W(illelmo) de Tanc(aruilla). Per Willelmum de Calna. Apud Windr(esores).

*Henry king of the English to Warin reeve of Southampton and his officials greeting. I command that the sustenance and clothing of the abbot of Abingdon and whatever his men are able to swear to be for his own use shall be quit of all toll and lastage and custom and passage. And if anything has been taken, upon this (my writ) it shall be quickly restored. Witness William de Tancarville. By William of Calne. At Windsor.*

DATE: Before the death of William de Tancarville, 1129. Not the same occasion as the previous document, but not very far apart in time. The appearance of Warin as reeve of Southampton in 1127 is the best guide, since borough reeves did not normally serve for a long period. Bigelow dates the act *c.* 1107 but gives no reason.

ADDRESS: See note on previous document.

WITNESS: William de Tancarville. William of Calne named in the *per*-clause appears elsewhere in a *per*-clause alongside William de Tancarville's sole witness in an act for Norwich cathedral priory (0000, *Regesta* 1625), but that is place-dated at Woodstock. He was presumably a relative of the royal chaplains Everard of Calne, later bishop of Norwich, and Nigel of Calne, prebendary of Salisbury, but his career cannot be traced.

PLACE: Windsor, Berks.

CONTEXT: One of two writs, copied together by the chronicler; the other is 000, *Regesta* 1510.

## 00 General writ exempting the goods of the monks from tolls and passage. Probably 1126 × July 1133

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 150v ('De theloneo') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139r [C].

CARTULARY COPIES: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fol. 35r ('De tolneo passag(io) &c.', no. xxvij) [D]; Chatsworth House, MS 71 E (s. xiv–xv), fol. 124v [E].

COPY IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Curia Regis Roll, Easter Term 27 Henry III (1243), KB26/125, mem. 17d [F].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 47v (no. 73) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 78–9 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 106 [from Stevenson]; *Curia Regis Rolls*, xvii. 55–6 (no. 212) [from F]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 62 (L96, C348) (English abstract) [from DE]; Hudson, ii. 116 (§ 95) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1258.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus uic(ecomitibus) et prepositis et omnibus ministris suis totius Angl(ie) et portuum maris salutem. Precipio quod omnia que ministri monachorum de Abbendona emerint ad uictum et uestitum et utensilia

monachorum, in ciuitatibus et burgis et omnibus aliis mercatis Anglie, sint quieta de theloneo et passagio et omni consuetudine, unde homines sui affidare poterint suas esse dominicas. Et nullus eos uel res illas inquietet uel iniuste disturbet super X libris forisfacture. T(estibus) canc(ellario) et Milone de Gloec(estra). Apud Abbendoniam.

*Henry king of the English to all his sheriffs and reeves and officials of all England and of the sea ports greeting. I command that everything that the officials of the monks of Abingdon buy for the sustenance and clothing and utilities of the monks in cities and boroughs and all other markets of England shall be quit of toll and passage and of all custom, provided that their men are able to swear that they are their demesne. And no one shall trouble them or their property or unjustly disturb them upon £10 of forfeit. Witness the chancellor and Miles of Gloucester. At Abingdon.*

DATE: Before the king left England for the last time, July 1133. The witness of Miles of Gloucester is not a firm dating criterion, but he is not known to attest before his father Walter of Gloucester retired into religion in 1126. The editors of *Regesta* set their date-range for this act as 1121 × 1133, noting that King Henry was at Abingdon on 13 March 1121 (see Place), and they place it in sequence under 1121. This has no credible reason (as observed by Hudson, ii, p. xxxii).

ADDRESS: General writ.

WITNESS: Geoffrey Rufus as chancellor; Miles of Gloucester.

PLACE: Abingdon, Berks. This is the only surviving writ with this place-date. The king is known to have been at Abingdon on 13 March 1121, when he attended the consecration of Robert Peche as bishop of Chester, in the abbey church (Eadmer, *Historia nouorum*, 293). That would be very early for the attestation of Miles of Gloucester, who was not married until after Easter 1121 (000, *Regesta* 1280) and cannot be seen at court for some years after that. Given Abingdon's position on a likely route between Woodstock and Winchester, the king may have passed through on many undocumented occasions, though, if so, one must wonder why Faritius did not take advantage of his presence to solicit documents.

CONTEXT: This is a standard writ for the exemption of the monks' goods from inland tolls. It was drafted on the basis of an earlier writ in the name of Henry I (000, not in *Regesta*). Another to much the same purpose is 000, *Regesta* 938. The archive also contains two writs specifically asserting the exemption from tolls in Southampton (000, 000, *Regesta* 1510, 1612), where the general writ ought to have been sufficient.

Two writs granting freedom from toll were obtained from King Stephen, one for the monks of Abingdon (Ste/8 from C only; Stevenson, ii. 183, Hudson, ii. 342, § 264b), the other in the same words for Colne (Ste/9, *Ctl. Colne*, no. 7). The writ for Abingdon was renewed by Henry II, at Rouen, very likely in May 1159, along with other charters for the abbey (H2/14; Stevenson, ii. 218, 221–2, Hudson, ii. 300–301, § 292, and a second time in C, ii. 346, § 297b).

In 1243 the abbot of Abingdon sent this writ and that of Henry II with his attorney to court to recover money taken as toll by the king's bailiffs in Worcester

(*Curia Regis Rolls*, xvii. 55–6, no. 212). The bailiffs had levied a toll of ½d on each ox bought by the abbot ‘ad carucas suas’, and the amount came to about 2s (*circiter duos solidos*), indicating that the abbey’s men had bought about forty-eight plough-oxen in Worcester. The abbot’s attorney pleaded that they have done so contrary to the liberties of the abbey and produced this general writ and that of Henry II (H2/14). The bailiffs respond, ‘et dicunt quod carte ille non debent ei ualere, quia nunquam per illas uel aliquo alio modo aliquibus libertatibus usus est in uilla sua Wygorn’, quia dominus rex et predecessores sui et ipsi balliui et alii qui pro tempore fuerunt semper habuerunt et habere consueuerunt theolonium de omnibus hominibus ipsius abbatis quando aliquid emerent uel uenderent in predicta uilla, siue esset ad opus ipsius abbatis et monachorum suorum siue ad usus suos proprios’. The abbot’s attorney disputes this, saying that the charters and liberties had always been respected, ‘donec predicti balliui iam per duos annos elapsos distringerunt (*sic*) homines suos de theolonio eis reddendo per uim et per extorsionem’. A date was set, but several essoins follow (ib. nos. 2461, 2515; xviii. nos. 705, 1825), and the suit appears to have lapsed. The fact that the abbot was buying oxen for the plough from as far away as Worcester presumably indicates that the market there was a better source of supply than markets nearer to Abingdon.

#### ABBOT INGULF

### 00 Charter appointing Ingulf as abbot of Abingdon and granting him the judicial privileges held by his predecessors. March × September 1130

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 168r–v (‘De abbate Ingulfo. Littere regis’) [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 160v [C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 173–4 [from C]; Hudson, ii. 254 (§ 255) [from BC].

CALENDAR: Farrer 613; *Regesta* 1641.

Successit autem ei in loco pastoris Ingulfus prior Wintoniensis ecclesie, uir religiosus et scientia litterarum ad prime instructus, qui ecclesiam sibi commissam in diuersis persecutionibus positus, pro ut tempus ei sinebat, moderate regebat, que persecutiones post regis Henrici obitum ei nunquam defuerunt. Pro quo confirmando et in abbatem promouendo, idem rex primoribus Anglie tales litteras suo sigillo munitas direxit.

Henricus rex Angl(or)um archiepiscopis episcopis abbatibus comitibus uicecomitibus baronibus et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et anglicis totius Anglie salutem. Sciatis me concessisse et dedisse Ingulfo abbati abbatiam de Abbendona, cum omnibus rebus ipsi abbacie pertinentibus. Et uolo et

firmiter precipio quod bene et in pace et quiete et honorifice teneat et libere cum saca et soca et toll et tem et infangetheof, et gritbruche et forstel et hamsocna et flemeneformthe, in burgo et extra burgum, in bosco et plano, in aquis et in riuis, et semitis, et in festo et sine festo, et cum omnibus aliis consuetudinibus suis, sicut unquam aliquis antecessorum suorum melius et quietius et honorificentius et liberius tenuit. T(estibus) Rogero episcopo Sar' et Henrico episcopo Wint' et <G.><sup>a</sup> cancellario et Nigello nepote episcopi et Willelmo de Pontearc(arum) et Roberto de Oili et Warino uicec(omite). Apud Winton(iam).

<sup>a</sup> G. conj. ] added coloured initial S B, no initial C

*There succeeded him in the role of pastor Ingulf, prior of the church of Winchester, a devout man and educated to the highest degree in the knowledge of literature, who ruled the church entrusted to him with moderation as far as the time allowed him, for he found himself persecuted in several ways, and these troubles never went away after King Henry's death. To promote him and confirm him as abbot the king addressed a document authenticated with his seal to the great men of England in these words:*

*Henry king of the English to the archbishops bishops abbots earls sheriffs barons and all his sworn men French and English of all England greeting. Know that I have granted and given to Abbot Ingulf the abbey of Abingdon with everything pertaining to the abbey. And I will and firmly command that he shall hold well and in peace and quietly and honourably and freely with sake and soke and toll and team and infangthief, and with grithbreche and forestall and hamsocn and flemenefermthe, within borough and without, in wood and plain, in waters and channels, and paths, and within feast and without, and with all his other customs just as any of his predecessors ever well and quietly and honourably and freely held. Witness Roger bishop of Salisbury and Henry bishop of Winchester and <Geoffrey> the chancellor and Nigel nephew of the bishop and William de Pont de l'Arche and Robert d'Oilly and Warin the sheriff. At Winchester.*

DATE: After the death of Abbot Vincent on 29 March 1130; before the king left England for Normandy, August–September 1130.

ADDRESS: General address.

WITNESS: Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Henry of Blois, bishop of Winchester; Geoffrey Rufus, chancellor; Nigel, nephew of Bishop Roger; William de Pont de l'Arche; Robert d'Oilly; Warin of Southampton, sheriff of Somerset and Dorset in the 1120s, and by this date perhaps sheriff of Hampshire (000, *Regesta* 1937).

PLACE: Winchester, Hants.

CONTEXT: King Henry again appoints an outsider to the abbey.

00 General writ of naifty ordering sheriffs and officials to restore fugitive serfs to the abbey. *c.* 1110 × 1133

CHRONICLE COPIES: BL MS Cotton Claudius C. IX (s. xii), fol. 151r ('De fugitiuis ecclesie') [B]; BL MS Cotton Claudius B. VI (s. xiii), fol. 139v [C].

CARTULARY COPY: Bodl. MS Lyell 15 (s. xiv), fols. 41r ('De fugitiuis', no. lvij, omits witness) [D].

ANTIQUARIAN TRANSCRIPT: BL MS Harley 66 (s. xvii), fol. 48r (no. 77) [from C].

PRINTED: Stevenson, ii. 81 [from C]; Bigelow, *Placita*, 94 [from Stevenson]; *Royal Writs*, 471 (no. 112) ('naifty') [from Stevenson]; Lambrick & Slade, i. 78 (L126) (English abstract) [from D]; Hudson, ii. 120 (§ 102) [from BC].

CALENDAR: *Regesta* 1799.

Henricus rex Angl(orum) omnibus uic(ecomitibus) et ministris suis totius Anglie in quorum baillia fugitiui abbacie de Abbendona inuenti fuerint salutem. Precipio uobis quod plene et iuste faciatis habere abbati Abbendone omnes fugitiuos suos cum tota pecunia et catallo suo ubicumque<sup>a</sup> ipsi inuenti fuerint. Et prohibeo ne aliquis eos ei uel pecuniam suam super hoc iniuste detineat super X lib(ras) forisfacture. T(este) canc(ellario). Apud Wodestoc'.

<sup>a</sup> ubicumque D ] ibicumque BC, *as also in the next document*, 000, *Regesta* 726

*Henry king of the English to all his sheriffs and officials of all England in whose bailliwicks fugitives of the abbey of Abingdon will have been found greeting. I command you that you shall fully and justly cause the abbot of Abingdon to have all his fugitives with all their stock and chattels wherever they will have been found. And upon this (my writ) I forbid anyone to unjustly withhold them or their chattels from him upon £10 of forfeit. Witness the chancellor. At Woodstock.*

DATE: Since the chancellor witnesses without name or initial, this writ must have been attested by either Ranulf, chancellor from 1107 to 1123, or Geoffrey, 1123 to 1133. The place-date at Woodstock suggests not before *c.* 1110.

ADDRESS: General writ, whose address clause reflects its subject.

WITNESS: Ranulf or Geoffrey, as chancellor.

PLACE: Woodstock, Oxon.

CONTEXT: A standard writ.